WEIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE

PLANET COMICS

MAY
No. 24

10¢

FLINT BAKER
RALLIES HIS AMAZON SKY-TROOPS TO STEM AN UNHOLY INVASION *IN*
RAIDERS FROM THE RED MOON"

AURO—LORD OF JUPITER

MARS—GOD OF WAR

HUNT BOWMAN *IN*
THE LOST WORLD"

the QUEEN of the JUNGLE

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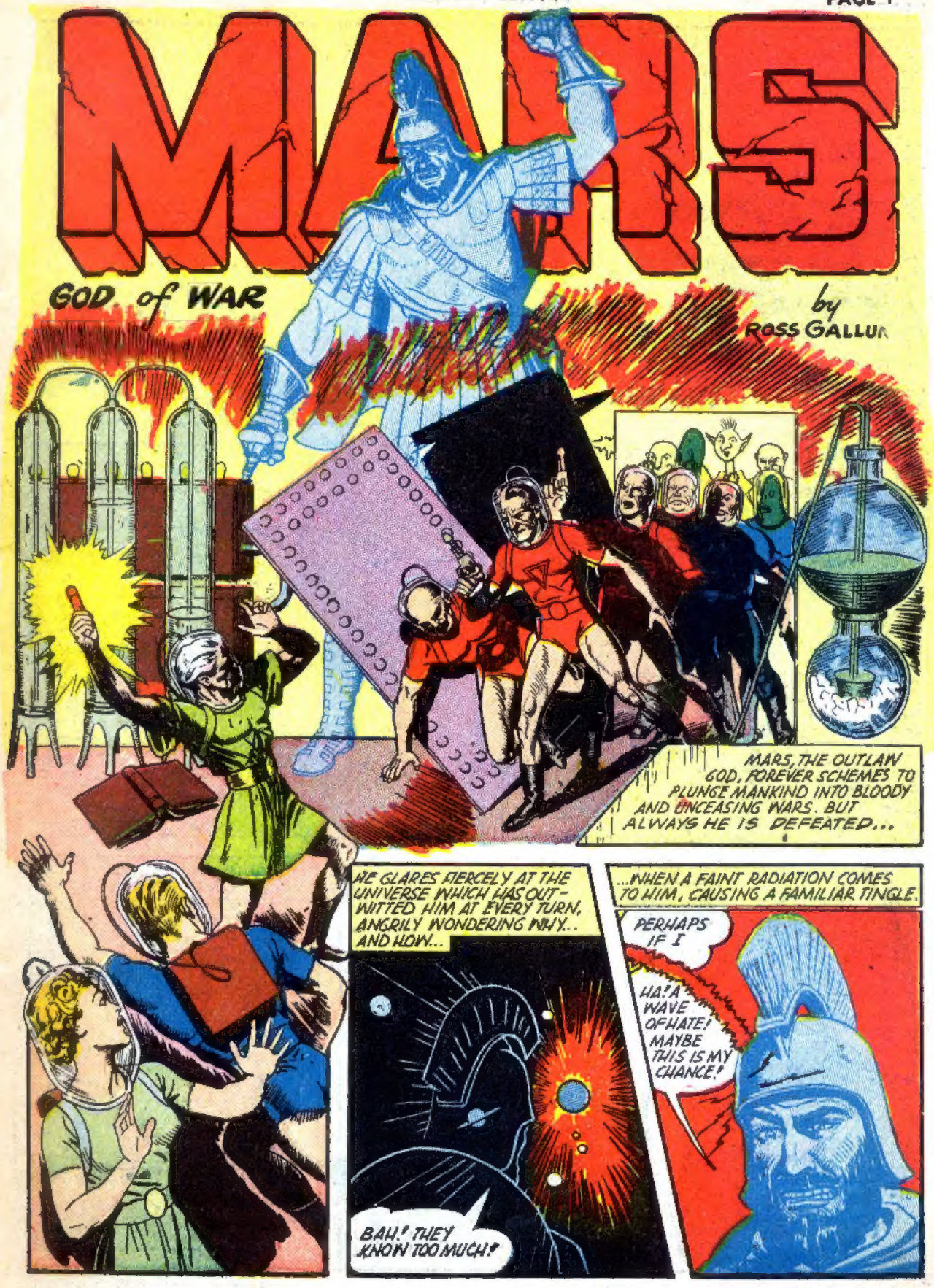
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GOD of WAR
by ROSS GALLUR
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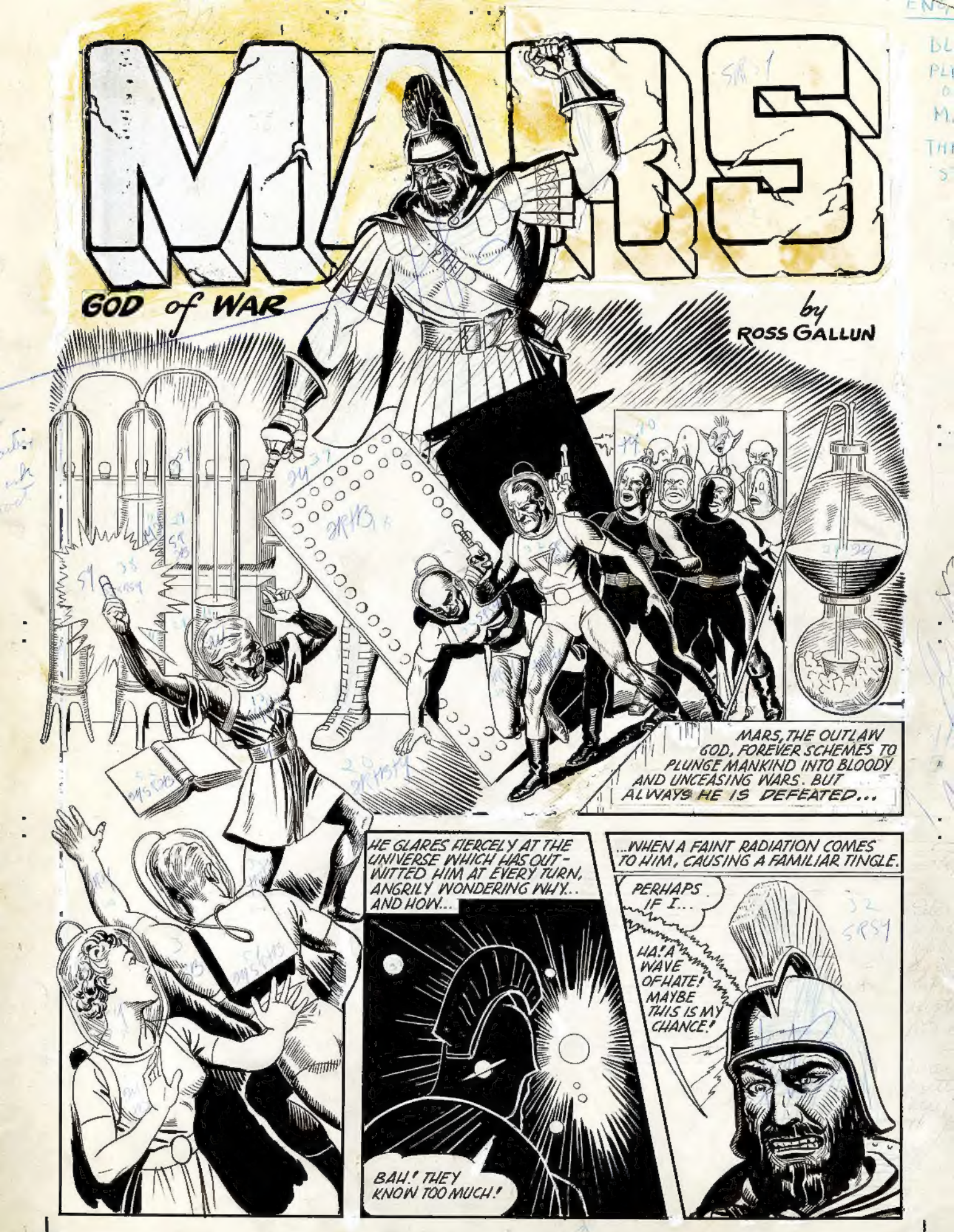
HE GLARES FIERCELY AT THE UNIVERSE WHICH HAS OUT-WITTED HIM AT EVERY TURN, ANGRILY WONDERING WHY... AND HOW...
BAH! THEY KNOW TOO MUCH!
...WHEN A FAINT RADIATION COMES TO HIM, CAUSING A FAMILIAR TINGLE.
PERHAPS IF I
HA! A WAVE OF HATE! MAYBE THIS IS MY CHANCE!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PLANET # 3 4 F / P 1

FICTION HOUSE, INC.

UNERRINGLY HE FLASHES TO THE SOURCE OF THE RADIATION.
SO! IT COMES FROM THAT PLANET... THE WORST AND MOST PEACEFUL OF THEM ALL!
IT LEADS HIM TO A TOWER DEEP IN A CITY OF TOWERS.
THIS MAY NOT BE WORTH MY WHILE!
HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE PRESENCE OF ONE BERT RAND, EMBITTERED, RESENTFUL AND, ABOVE ALL, FULL OF HATE...
AFTER ALL THE YEARS I'VE SLAVED!
IN THE NEXT ROOM MARS FOLLOWS THE POISONED THOUGHTS OF RAND TO THEIR TARGET, DR. MARK.
HE SLIGHTS ME FOR AN UPSTART! EVEN HIS DAUGHTER LOUISE IGNORES ME!
YOU'RE MY CHIEF ASSISTANT NOW, FLETCHER!
WORKING WITH WITH YOU IS REWARD ENOUGH, DR. MARK!
DAN! HOW WONDERFUL!
QUICKLY, MARS SIZES UP THE SITUATION...
DR. MARK, THE GREAT ELECTRO-PHYSICIST, EH? IF I CONTROLLED THAT KNOWLEDGE, WHAT COULDN'T I DO!
DR. MARK, YOU'LL REGRET THIS!
HATE OPENS THE SOUL OF RAND TO MARS!
THE GOD OF WAR SEATS HIMSELF AT THE CONTROLS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! BERT RAND WAS MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS!

THE FIRST STEP IS EASY—FOR RAND. HE GATHERS CERTAIN LIKE SPIRITS—THE DISGRUNTLED...THE ENVIOUS...

THE NEXT STEP IS ALSO EASY. IT ONLY NEEDS KNOWLEDGE OF DR. MARK'S MOVEMENTS...

WE'RE TO TAKE THE GIRL, TOO!

HOW DARE YOU—?

HELP!

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, A DARKENED VESSEL ROARS OFF INTO SPACE!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

TAKE IT EASY, DOC. YOU GOT LOTS OF TIME TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING!

FINALLY OUT OF THE BLACK LOOMS—THE RENDEZVOUS!

THIS IS IT, MAC!

THE SCIENTIST FINDS HIMSELF IN A MACHINE OF HIS OWN DEVISING. ITS POWERFUL SHOCK CAN JOLT THE TRUTH OUT OF ANY MAN!

NOW THEN, DR. MARK, I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SCIENCE. WILL YOU TELL—OR SHALL I TURN ON THE JUICE?

TURN ON THE JUICE, RAND!

OH, BERT, HOW CAN YOU DO THIS HORRIBLE THING?

MEANWHILE, DAN FLETCHER...

LET ME JOIN THE INTER-PLANETARY PATROL, CAPTAIN! I CAN'T STAND THIS INACTION—THIS WAITING...

WE HAVEN'T LOCATED THEM YET, FLETCHER. OF COURSE, WE CAN ALWAYS USE ANOTHER GOOD MAN—

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GLOATING OVER HIS POWER, RAND'S RECKLESS PLANS MOUNT IN INTENSITY. HE SCOURS THE UNIVERSE TO DRAFT HIMSELF AN ARMY OF RENEGADES.!

SWEAR!

WE SWEAR! URS GFFF! TICK-CLICKACK! TSSS! TSSS!

FAR AND WIDE INTERPLANETARY TRAFFIC IS RAIDED!

CAPTURED VOYAGERS ARE CLOSELY QUESTIONED.

WHAT SCIENCE DO YOU KNOW?

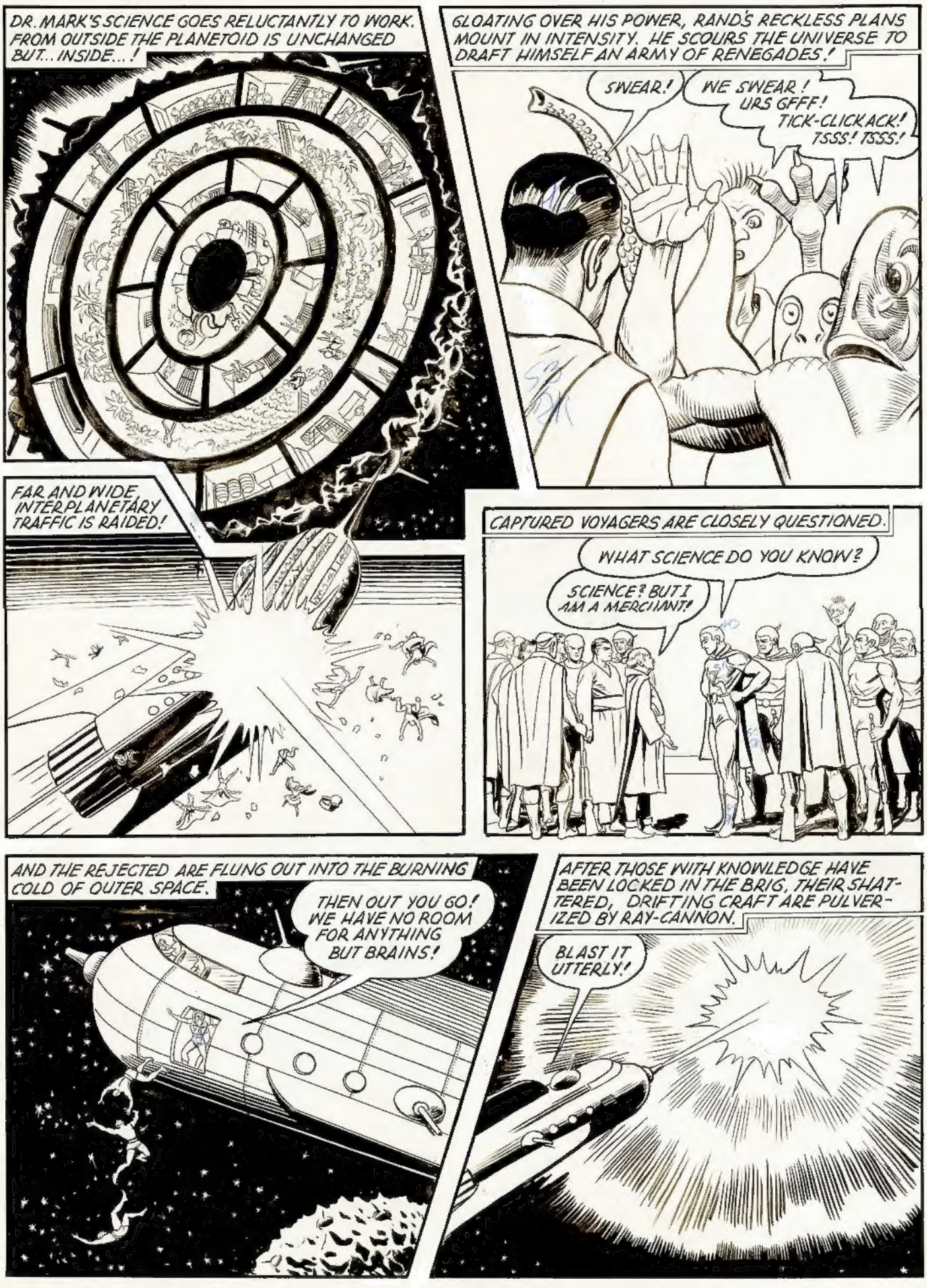
SCIENCE? BUT I AM A MERCHANT!

AND THE REJECTED ARE FLUNG OUT INTO THE BURNING COLD OF OUTER SPACE.

THEN OUT YOU GO! WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING BUT BRAINS!

AFTER THOSE WITH KNOWLEDGE HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN THE BRIG, THEIR SHATTERED, DRIFTING CRAFT ARE PULVERIZED BY RAY-CANNON.

BLAST IT UTTERLY!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BUT AT LAST RAND'S SECRET HIDEOUT IS DISCOVERED-THE INTERPLANETARY PATROL FLEET TAKES OFF..

IF ONLY DR. MARK AND LOUISE ARE STILL ALIVE!

WE'LL SOON BE THERE, FLETCHER.

BUT BEFORE THEY ARE WITHIN RANGE, NEW AND POWERFUL BEAMS STAB OUT AT THE I.P. FLEET...

HEY! LOOK OUT!

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS THE VOID IS ENDANGERING THE SURVIVORS, WHO DES-

JAMMED WITH WRECKAGE, DOUBLY PERATELY DODGE THE RAYS...

THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THEY MUST RETREAT.. A MERE HANDFUL OF SURVIVORS!

SUCH POWER! SUCH SCIENCE! DR. MARK MUST BE WORKING WITH THEM!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, CAPTAIN!

THIS IS A NEW THREAT DR. MARK MUST FACE— DESTRUCTION OF HIS GOOD NAME!

I HATE TO THINK IT, FLETCHER... BUT WHAT ELSE?

HOWEVER, ALL IS JOY ON THE PLANETOID!

HAIL, RAND!

THE UNIVERSE IS OURS!

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YET NEITHER RAND, NOR MARS IS COMPLETELY SATISFIED...

I'VE GOTTEN ALL I CAN OUT OF THAT OLD FOOL--AND THERE IS STILL MUCH THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW!

LOUISE... I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE...

... CHICAGO, TELLURIS--DR. STEIN, THE EMINENT CHEMIST, PLANS A VOYAGE TO URANUS TO GATHER SAMPLES OF ITS SOIL...

AH! THAT **IS** NEWS! CHEMISTRY, EH? STEP INTO MY PARLOR, DR. STEIN!

LATER... AN ELDERLY MAN SITS IN THE CABIN OF A LINER HURLING THROUGH SPACE... SUDDENLY THE CABIN LURCHES AND THE ELDERLY GENTLEMAN TENSES...

AHA! RAND ATTACKS!

THE SHIP IS BOARDED... ONE OF RAND'S HORRORS SEIZES DR STEIN.

COME! RAND AWAITS!

AND ANOTHER GREAT MIND COMES UNDER THE THUMB OF AN ARCH-CRIMINAL...

YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT, DONT YOU? DO YOU WANT IT SHOCKED OUT OF YOU... OR WILL YOU TALK?

GIVE ME AN EARTH-DAY IN WHICH TO THINK. IT IS HARD FOR AN OLD MAN TO MAKE UP HIS MIND!

WARNING HIM AGAINST TRICKS, RAND GRANTS DR. STEIN'S REQUEST...

THINK HARD, DR. STEIN! THERE ARE TWO GUARDS OUTSIDE... AND YOU HAVE UNTIL TOMORROW!

THE INSTANT HE IS ALONE, THE OLD MAN WHIPS OUT A PECULIAR INSTRUMENT...

FORGOT ABOUT MY OPACOSCOPE, DIDN'T YOU.. I CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS WITH IT!

YET NEITHER RAND, NOR MARS IS COMPLETELY SATISFIED...

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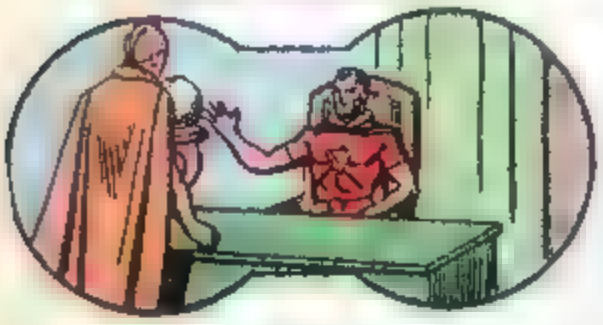
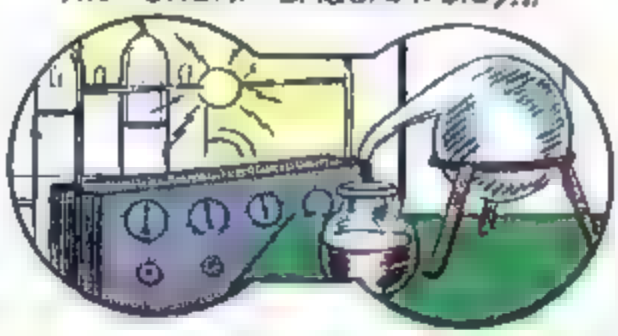
RAND$ OFFICE...



HIS GREAT LABORATORY...



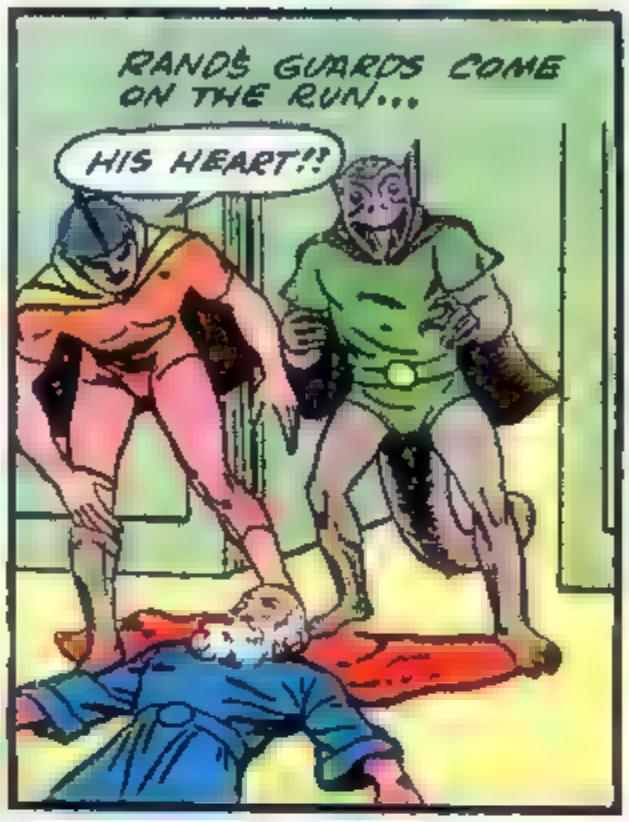
AND...

HIS VICTIMS!

HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAND'S HIDEOUT COMPLETE THE OLD MAN ACTS STRANGELY. HE SHOUTS AS IF IN AGONY..AND THEN QUIETLY LIES DOWN ON THE FLOOR...

RAND$ GUARDS COME ON THE RUN...

HIS HEART!!



THE OLD-MAN REVIVES!

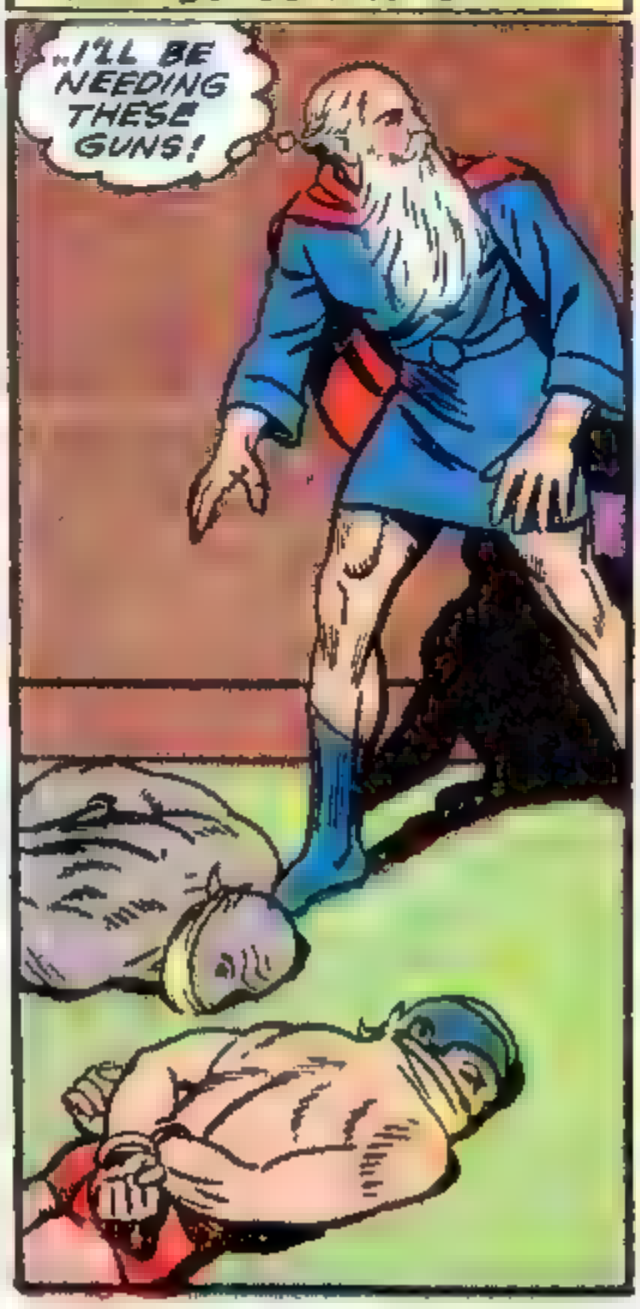
NO! YOUR HEADS!

HIS CONDITION IMPROVES RAPIDLY...

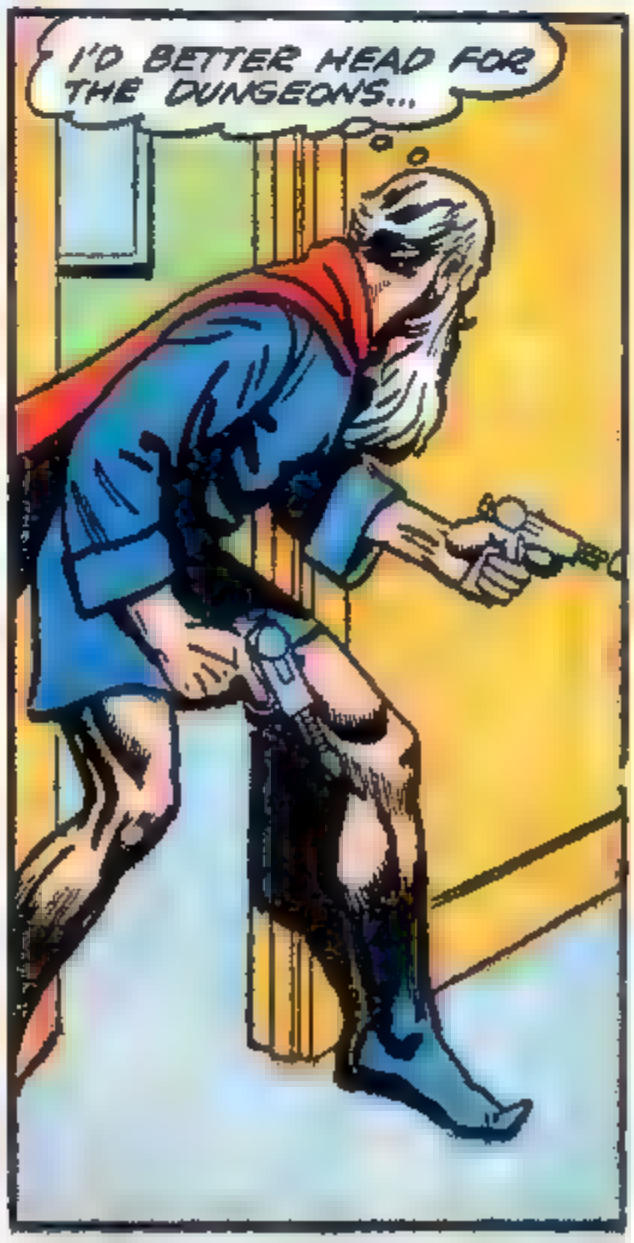
TRY THIS FOR WHAT AILS YOU!

RIPPED-UP SHIRTS MAKE FINE BONDS AND GAGS!

..I'LL BE NEEDING THESE GUNS!



I'D BETTER HEAD FOR THE DUNGEONS...



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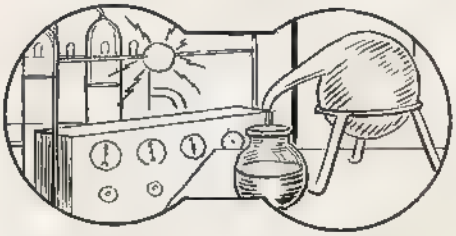

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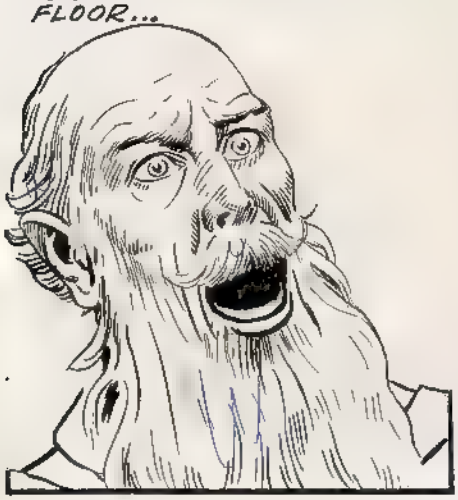

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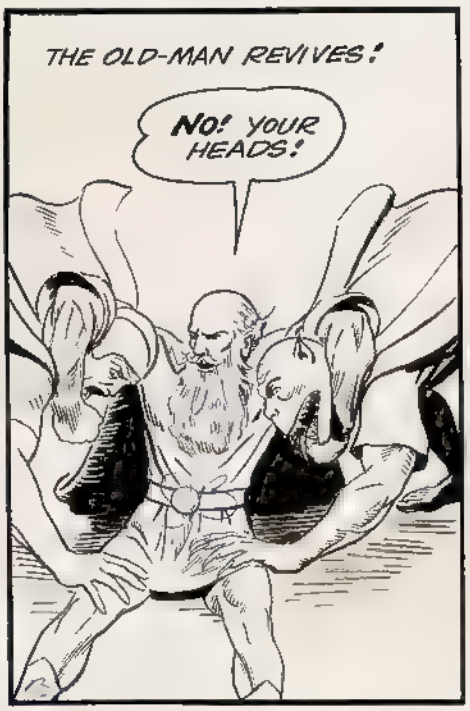

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THEY LIE IN THIS DIRECTION!

..AT THE INTERSECTION, TWO GUARDS ARE TALKING...

WAIT UNTIL WE TAKE TERRA, THERE'LL BE LOOT BY THE TON.

ONCE MORE DR. STEIN DEMONSTRATES HIS CONDITION..

WATCH OUT! ..WHO'S THAT?

CURIOSITY IS A BAD TRAIT, FRIEND!

AGAIN, SHIRTS ARE TORN INTO USE-FUL STRIPS...AGAIN THERE IS TIP-TOEING..

THE PRISON CAN'T BE FAR, NOW!

THE HAGGARD DR. MARK AND THE DESPAIRING LOUISE RECEIVE A SUDDEN VISITOR...

THANK THE LORD I FOUND YOU!

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WHAT'S YOUR GAME? I SUPPOSE THIS IS A **NEW** KIND OF TORTURE...

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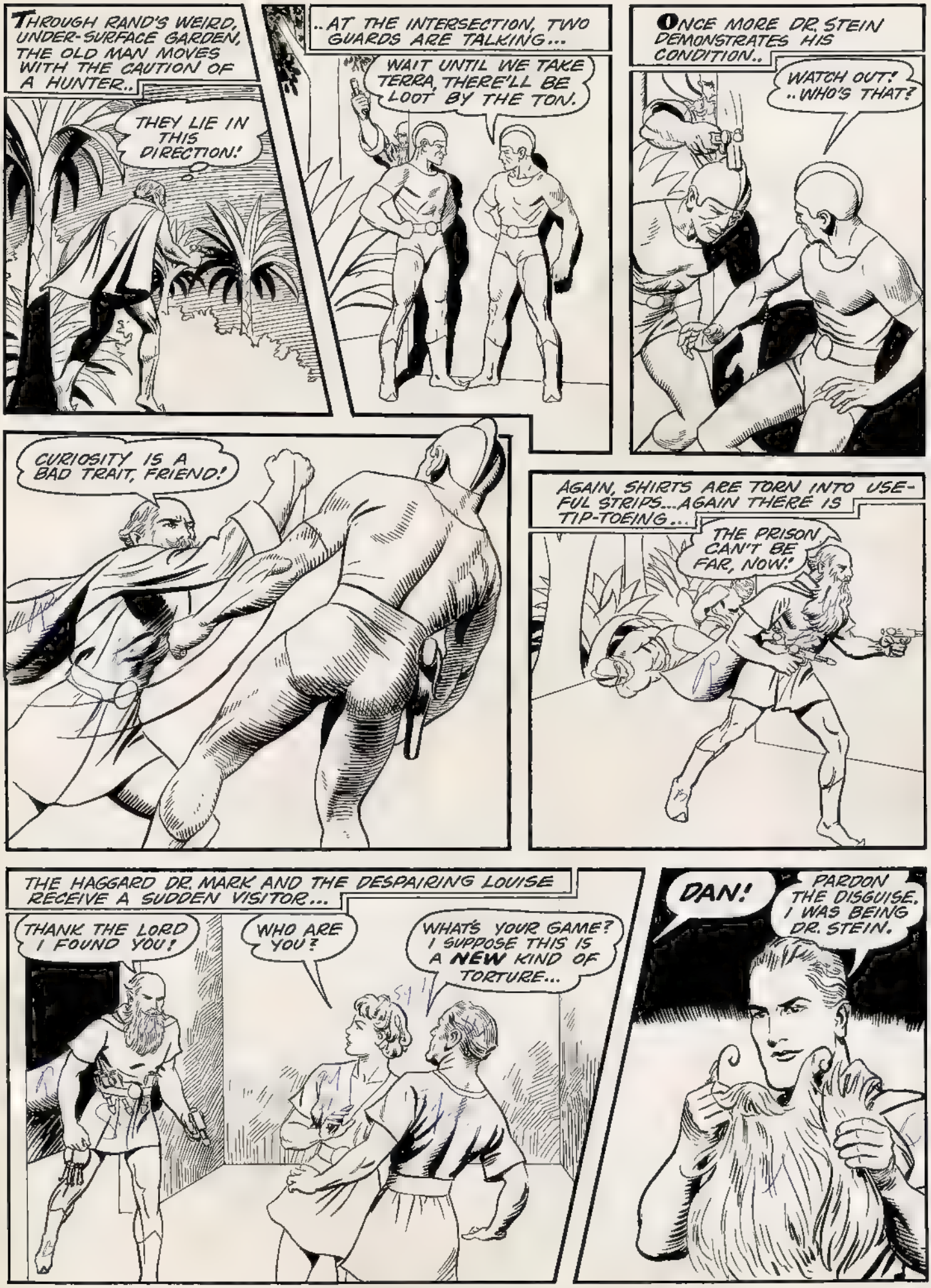
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A STRANGE REUNION ON RAND'S SATANIC LITTLE PLANET..

WE'RE OVERJOYED TO SEE YOU, MY BOY, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD YOU'LL DO US, OR YOURSELF.

I'M GAMBLING ON GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE, BUT EVEN IF I FAIL, IT'LL BE WORTH THE CHANCE!

LOOK, DAN, IN SPITE OF RAND'S SHOCKER, HE DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING OUT OF ME. I'VE GOT ONE LITTLE MONKEY-WRENCH UP MY SLEEVE, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET TO THE LABORATORY TO USE IT.

I'M WITH YOU, DOC. TAKE THESE PISTOLS. WE'LL NEED THEM.. WHATS THAT CLANGING NOISE?..

THAT'S THE ALARM SIGNAL! RAND'S AFTER US... GET READY!

RAND'S GUARDS RACE FROM ALL QUARTERS, SLOWED BY THE PLANETOID'S LOW GRAVITY. BUT THE THREE EX-PRISONERS ARE ALREADY ON THE MOVE...

COVER THE REAR, LOUISE!

DAN LEADS THEM TO THE LABORATORY. DR. MARK FEVERISHLY POUNCES ON THE APPARATUS HE KNOWS SO WELL.

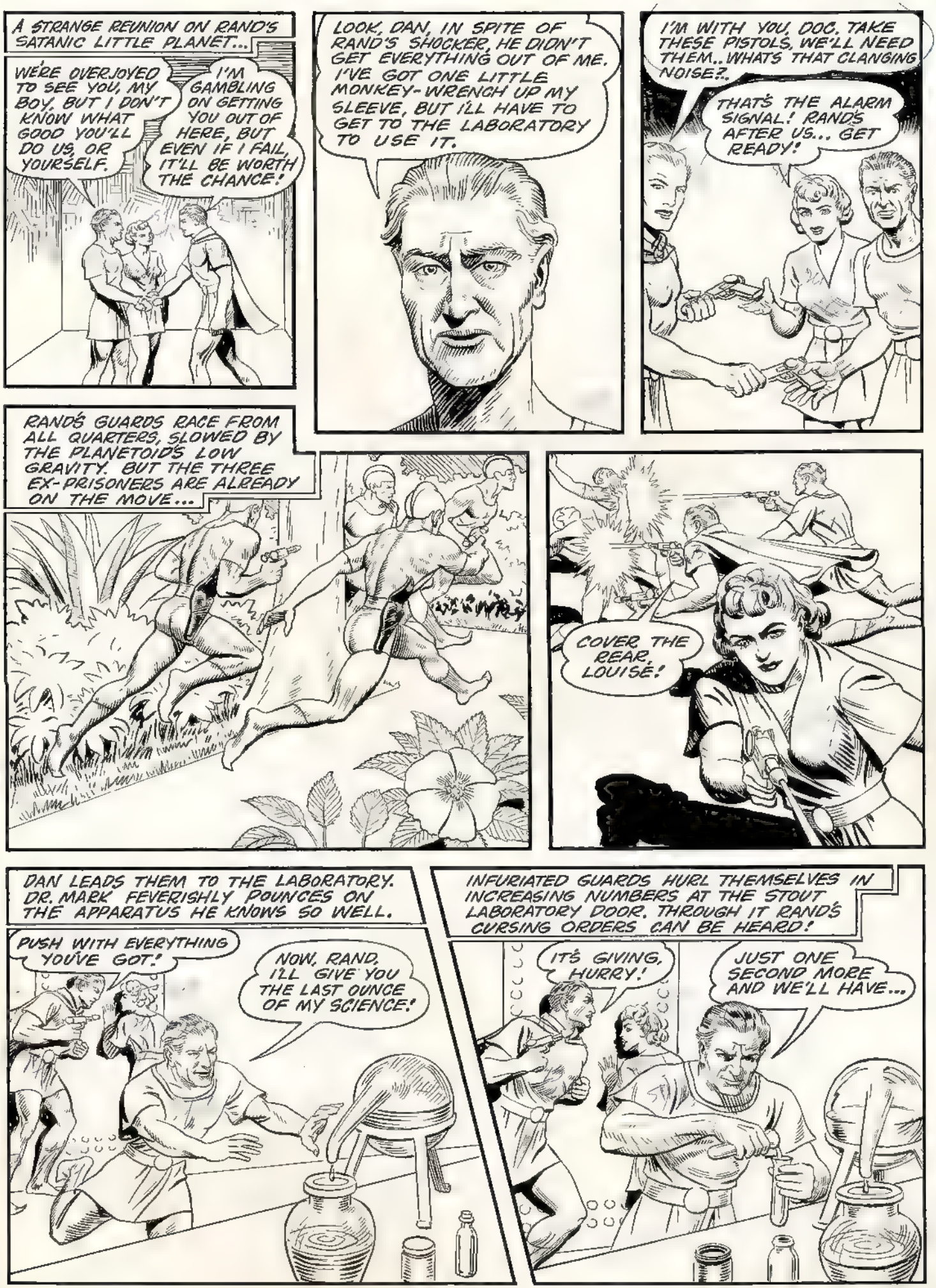
PUSH WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

NOW, RAND, I'LL GIVE YOU THE LAST OUNCE OF MY SCIENCE!

INFURIATED GUARDS HURL THEMSELVES IN INCREASING NUMBERS AT THE STOUT LABORATORY DOOR. THROUGH IT RAND'S CURSING ORDERS CAN BE HEARD!

IT'S GIVING, HURRY!

JUST ONE SECOND MORE AND WE'LL HAVE...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ATOMIC FIRE!
THE DOOR EXPLODES INWARD! RAND'S RATS COME SWARMING FOR THE KILL! BUT DR. MARK HAS FINISHED. HE TURNS AND...
DUCK, DAN, LOUISE! MY ATOMIC FIRE WILL COOK THIS PLANETOID TO A CINDER. IT WILL GET US TOO, UNLESS WERE VERY FAST!
FOLLOW ME, DOC, I KNOW THE EXITS.
AN EXPLOSION OF ELEMENTAL FURY DEVASTATES THE LABORATORY! SHAKES THE WHOLE PLANETOID !!
WEIRD, SPUTTERING FLAMES LEAP!
THIS WAY TO THE SPACE SHIPS
WE HAVE SECONDS!
THE FEW GUARDS LEFT ARE DEMORALIZED. THE SCIENTISTS FLEE A BURNING WORLD!
PHEW! YOU SURE TURNED ON THE HEAT, SIR!
.. RAND CERTAINLY BURNED ME HERE AND THERE. NOW HE'S GETTING HIS!
CONFOUND THOSE MEN OF EARTH AND THEIR COURAGE!
COOLLY, DR MARK, DAN AND LOUISE RETURN TO EARTH...
ANY IDEA WHAT MADE RAND CUT UP LIKE THAT, SIR?
I DON'T KNOW IT SEEMED AS IF HE WERE A DIFFERENT MAN.
BUT MARS WILL NEVER LEARN! HE GROWLS, LICKS HIS WOUNDS, AND THEN VICIOUSLY PLANS HIS RETURN IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS

ATOMIC FIRE!

THE DOOR EXPLODES INWARD! RAND'S RATS COME SWARMING FOR THE KILL! BUT DR. MARK HAS FINISHED. HE TURNS AND---

DUCK, DAN, LOUISE! MY ATOMIC FIRE WILL COOK THIS PLANETOID TO A CINDER. IT WILL GET US TOO, UNLESS WERE VERY FAST!

FOLLOW ME, DOC, I KNOW THE EXITS.

AN EXPLOSION OF ELEMENTAL FURY DEVASTATES THE LABORATORY! SHAKES THE WHOLE PLANETOID !!

WEIRD, SPUTTERING FLAMES LEAP!

THIS WAY TO THE SPACE SHIPS

WE HAVE SECONDS!

THE FEW GUARDS LEFT ARE DEMORALIZED. THE SCIENTISTS FLEE A BURNING WORLD!

PHEW! YOU SURE TURNED ON THE HEAT, SIR!

.. RAND CERTAINLY BURNED ME HERE AND THERE. NOW HE'S GETTING HIS!

CONFOUND THOSE MEN OF EARTH AND THEIR COURAGE!

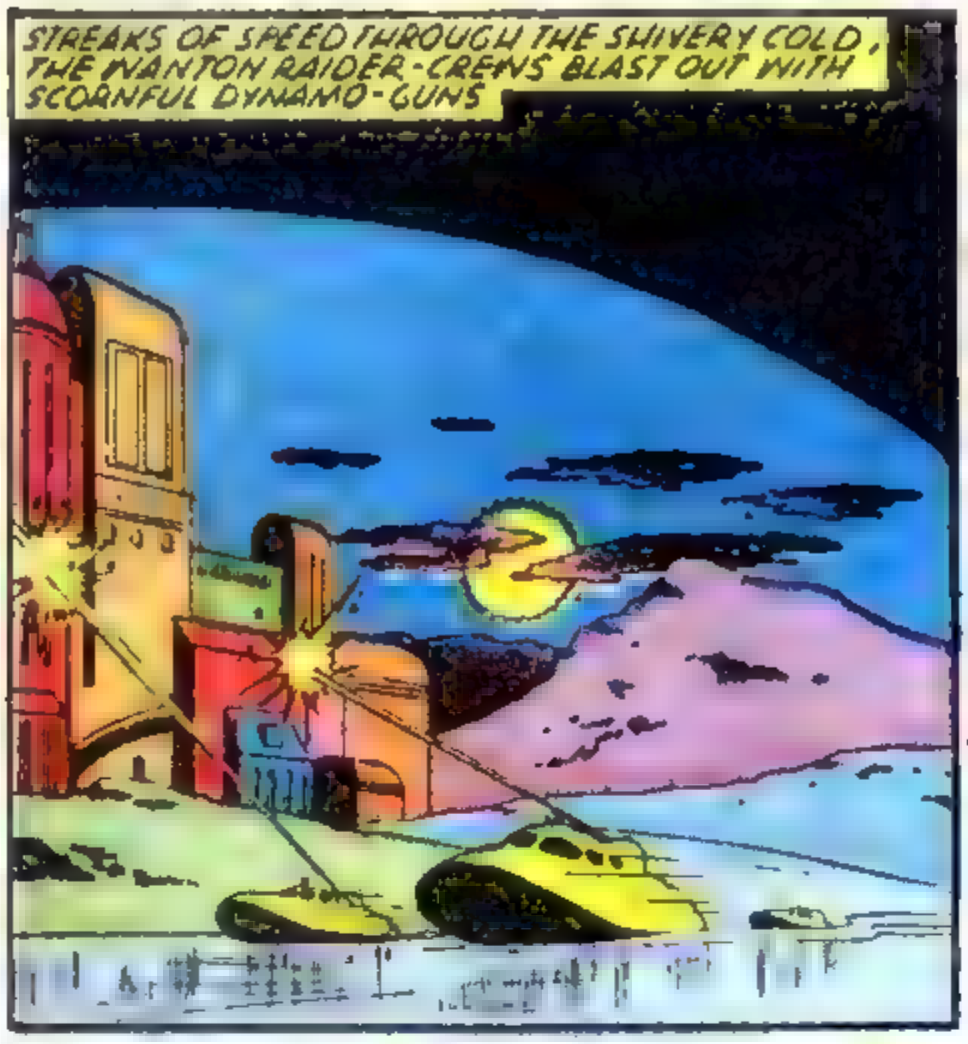
COOLLY, DR. MARK, DAN AND LOUISE RETURN TO EARTH...

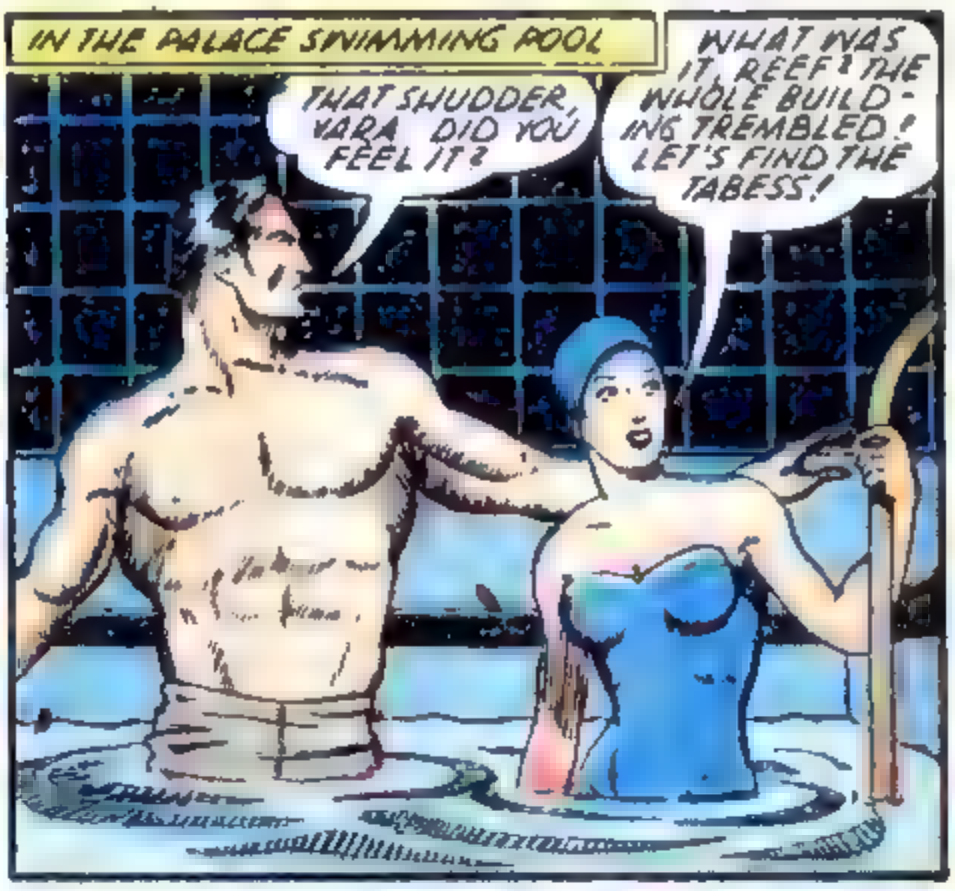
ANY IDEA WHAT MADE RAND CUT UP LIKE THAT, SIR?

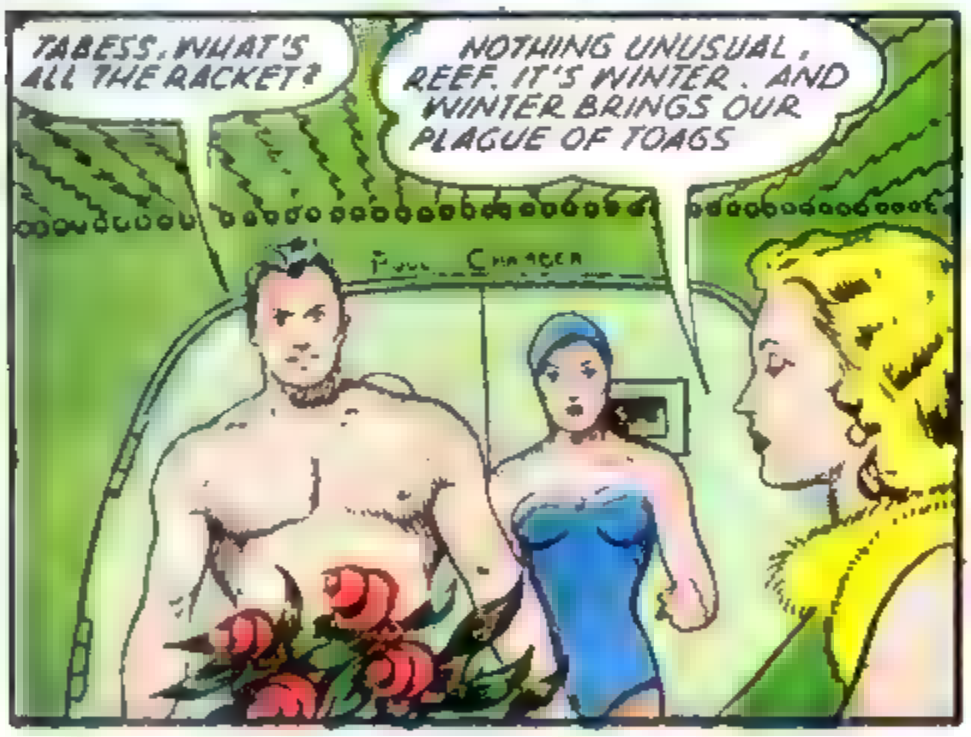
I DON'T KNOW. IT SEEMED AS IF HE WERE A DIFFERENT MAN.

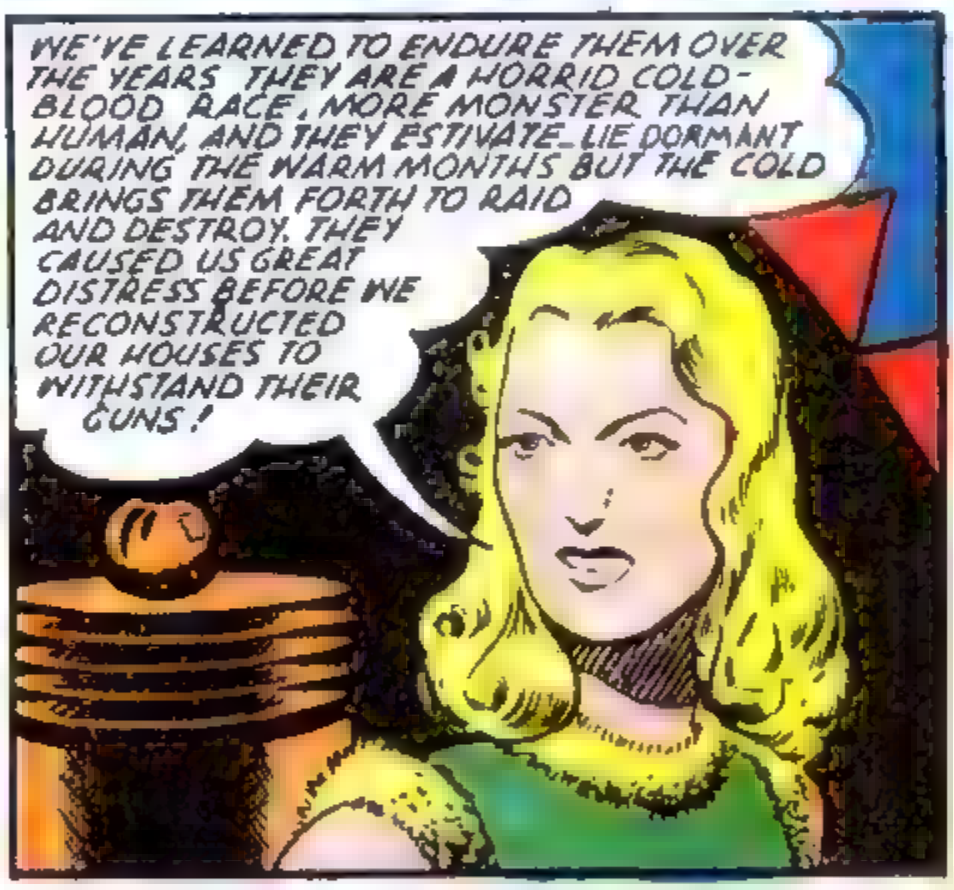
BUT **MARS** WILL NEVER LEARN! HE GROWLS, LICKS HIS WOUNDS, AND THEN VICIOUSLY PLANS HIS RETURN IN THE NEXT **PLANET COMICS**

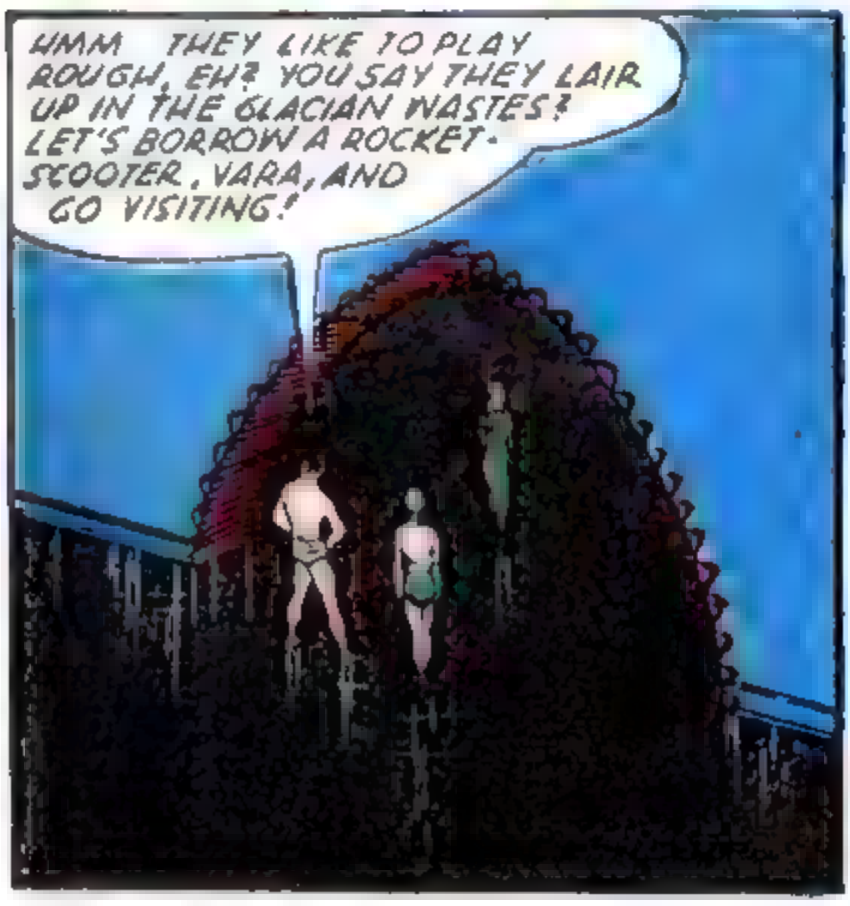
REEF RYAN
by Hugh Fitzhugh
WINTER IN NEPTUNE.. AND DOWN FROM THE VAST SUB-POLAR REGIONS NORTH THE ICY WINDS BLOW TERROR AS STRANGE BUG-LIKE BOATS SPEED ON A FROZEN RIVER..
"ALL GUNNERS TO THEIR STATIONS! RAIDERS PREPARE! WE ARE NOW ENTERING ZALAN!

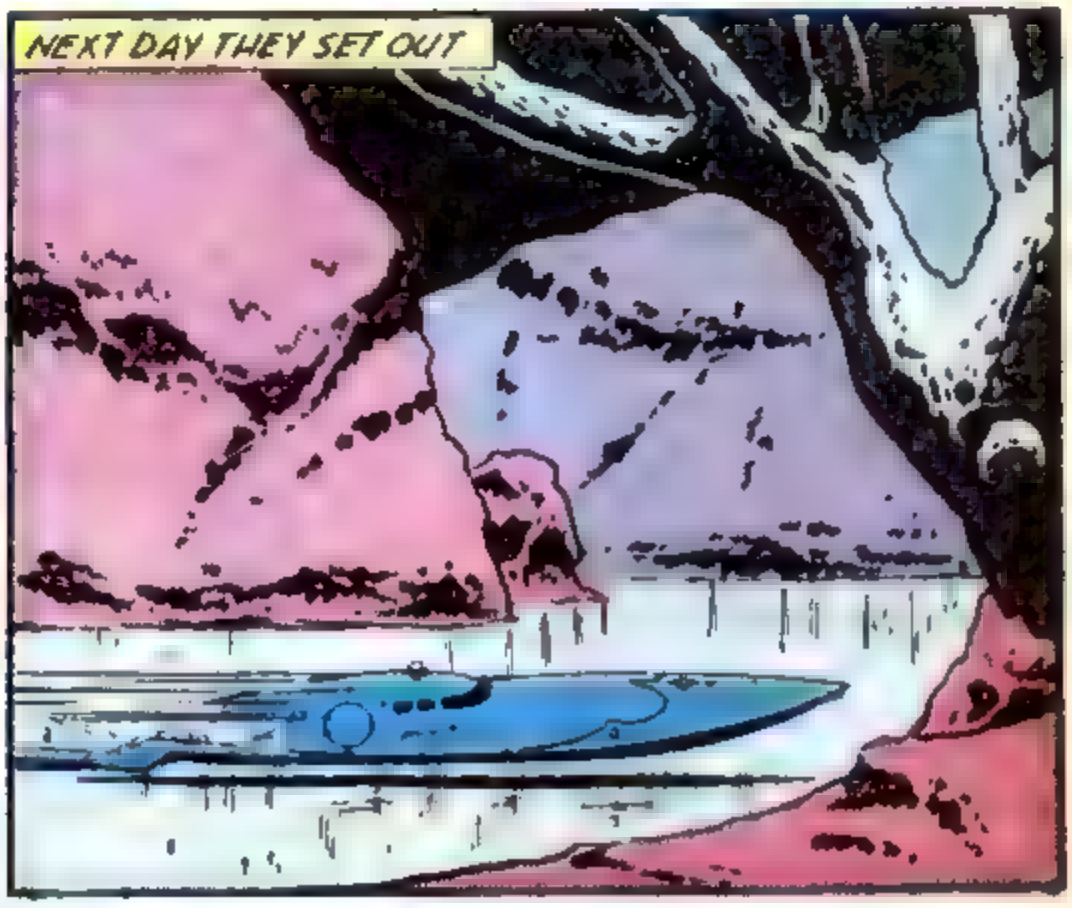

STREAKS OF SPEED THROUGH THE SHIVERY COLD, THE WANTON RAIDER-CREWS BLAST OUT WITH SCORNFUL DYNAMO-GUNS


IN THE PALACE SWIMMING POOL
THAT SHUDDER, VARA DID YOU FEEL IT?
WHAT WAS IT REEF? THE WHOLE BUILDING TREMBLED! LET'S FIND THE TABESS!


TABESS, WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET?
NOTHING UNUSUAL, REEF. IT'S WINTER, AND WINTER BRINGS OUR PLAGUE OF TOAGS

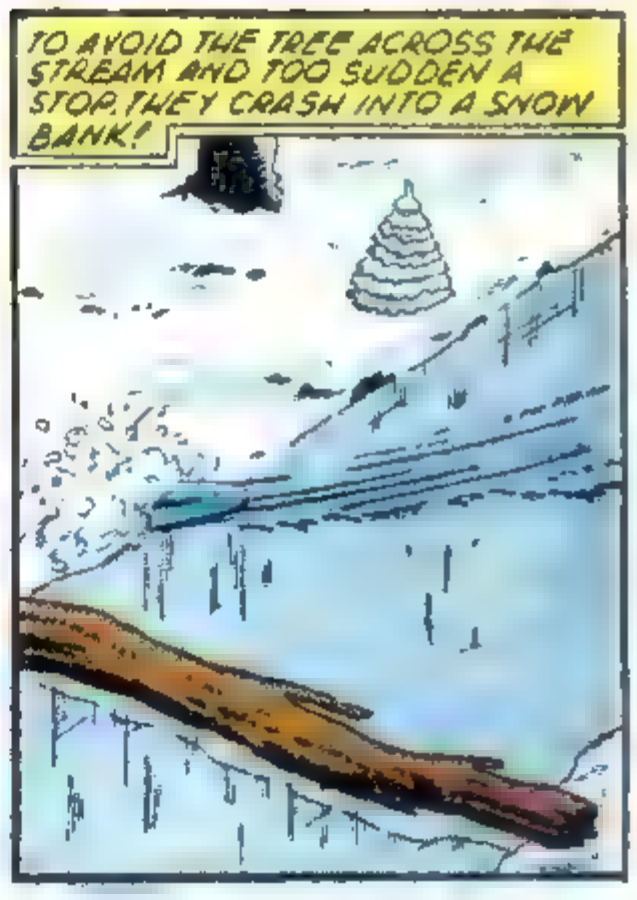

WE'VE LEARNED TO ENDURE THEM OVER THE YEARS. THEY ARE A HORRID COLD-BLOOD RACE, MORE MONSTER THAN HUMAN, AND THEY ESTIVATE—LIE DORMANT DURING THE WARM MONTHS BUT THE COLD BRINGS THEM FORTH TO RAID AND DESTROY. THEY CAUSED US GREAT DISTRESS BEFORE WE RECONSTRUCTED OUR HOUSES TO WITHSTAND THEIR GUNS!


HMM THEY LIKE TO PLAY ROUGH, EH? YOU SAY THEY LAIR UP IN THE GLACIAN WASTES? LET'S BORROW A ROCKET-SCOOTER, VARA, AND GO VISITING!

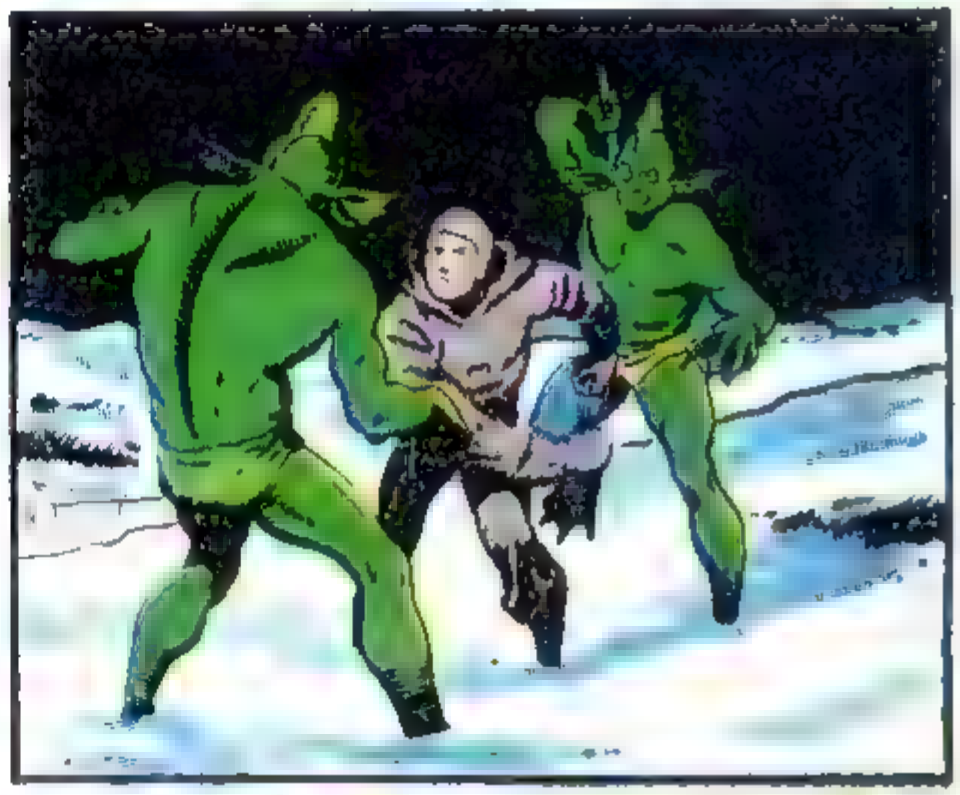

NEXT DAY THEY SET OUT

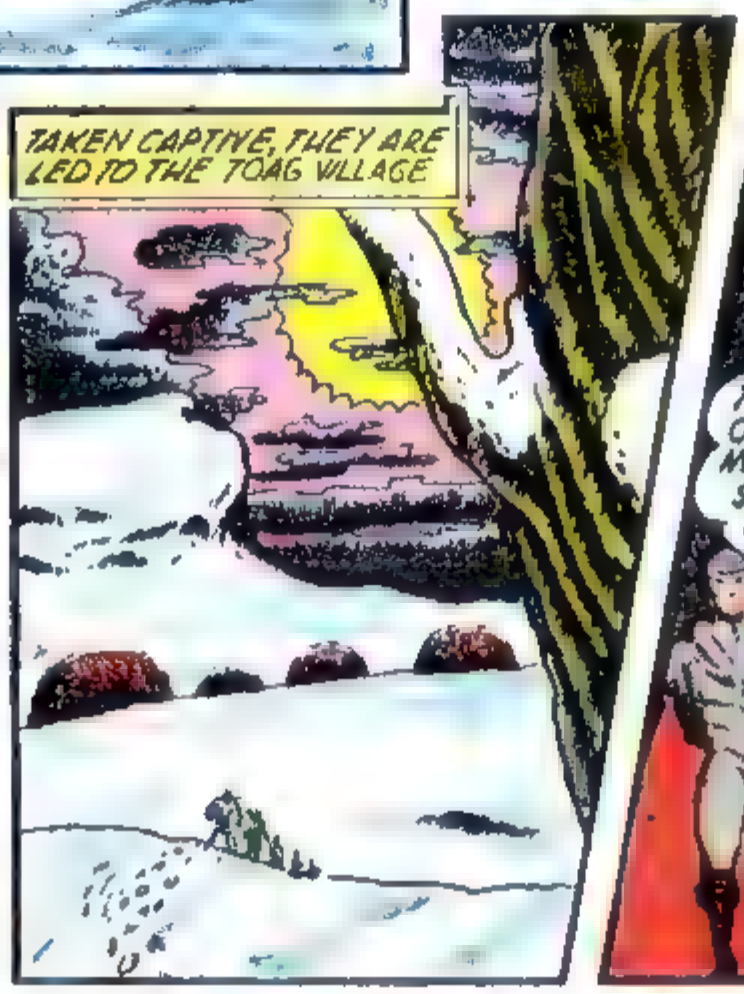
THIS IS GOING TO BE SOMETHING NEW TO US.
OH, REEF! I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN!

AS THEY TURN AT A BEND OF THE STREAM
LOOK OUT, REEF. A TREE!


TO AVOID THE TREE ACROSS THE STREAM AND TOO SUDDEN A STOP, THEY CRASH INTO A SNOW BANK!

REEF! THE TOAGS! THEY ARE COMING AFTER US!
SO THAT'S WHAT LAID THE LOG ACROSS THE STREAM!




TAKEN CAPTIVE, THEY ARE LED TO THE TOAG VILLAGE

FINALLY THEY ARE LEFT ALONE WITH THE CHIEF OF TOAGS.
WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU VENTURE SO FAR INTO THE MOUNTAINS?
TO FIND OUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO UGLY, CHUM.

OHO! SO IT'S TROUBLE YOU WANT. PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER TALK IT OVER WITH THE DORK. STRIP OFF HIS AARKA!

SUITS ME FINE!

AS VARA IS LED AWAY, REEF IS THRUST INTO A DUNGEON CHAMBER

THE DORK, EH? MUST BE THE CHIEF.. HEY! WHAT'S THAT IN THE SHADOWS!

THE DORK!

BUT REEF DARTS ASIDE A LEAP A GRAB AND STEEL-THEWED ARMS CLAMP THE GIANT REPTILE

FROM VANTAGES THE GLEEFUL TOAGS WATCH THEIR SLAVERING MONSTROSITY SPRING

SUCH AMAZING STRENGTH! HE HAS BROKEN THE DORK'S NECK!

UNBELIEVABLE!

HOO-HOO-HOO! BUT WHAT DOES THE VICTORY AVAIL HIM? HE IS STILL PRISONER AND ALREADY THE CHIEFS ARE BIDDING HIGH FOR THE GIRL

PRISONER, HUH? LET'S SEE YOU KEEP ME!

UG!

BUT

LOCK HIM UP! WE'LL SETTLE HIM AS SOON AS WE'VE HAGGLED OVER HOW MANY KHOLDAR OLD ZURKO THE FIERCE WILL PAY FOR THE GIRL!

THEY'RE TAKING KARA AWAY. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS JOINT!

REEF HURRIES TO HIS DAMAGED ROCKET-SCOOTER AND SECURES AN ELECTRO-GUN...

WOW! I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MOVING OR FREEZE. NOW TO GRAB ONE OF THEIR ROCKET-SLEDS AND FOLLOW THEM!

HURTLING HIMSELF AGAINST THE WALL...

LIKE BREAKING MATCHSTICKS!

SOON HE IS SPEEDING IN PURSUIT FROZEN MILES AWAY HE FINDS THEIR CRAFT MOORED.

AH, THERE ARE THEIR SLEDS. NOW TO FOLLOW THEIR FOOTPRINTS...

AN HOUR LATER THE TOAGS LEAVE THE HOUSE OF ZURKO THE FIERCE, WITHOUT KARA!

IF THEY'D WAITED ANOTHER HOUR I'D BE AN ICICLE!

IN THE HUT OF ZURKO THE FIERCE

YOU WILL BE MY HAND-MAIDEN, LITTLE RAVEN-HAIR. EVEN NOW THEY PREPARE THE POTION THAT WILL INSULATE YOUR FLESH TO THE COLD AND GROW MOST BEAUTIFUL WEBBED HANDS AND FEET LIKE MINE.

SUDDENLY THE CURTAINS JERK ..

AND I'VE GOT A POTION FOR YOU, ZURKO. THAT WILL GROW BUMPS ALL OVER YOUR FAT-HEAD SKULL!

REEF!

WHO...

BUT REEF'S RIFLE IS QUICKER.

STAND BACK! I'LL BLAST YOU INTO...

HURRY, VARA! I'VE HIDDEN ONE OF THEIR FASTEST SLEDS. WE'LL SOON CATCH UP WITH THEM.

OH! REEF— YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

THE GAUNT AND BARREN LANDSCAPE OF GLACIER-LAND WHIZZES PAST AS REEF SKIMS BACK FOR AN ANGRY PAYOFF.

THERE THEY ARE! HERE, VARA, TAKE THE CONTROLS. THIS CALLS FOR FANCY SHOOTING!

LIKE THIS!

THE TRIUMPHANT TOAGS, MEANWHILE, ARE BOASTFULLY QUIPPING OVER THEIR RADIO CIRCUITS.

HOW SHALL WE KILL THE EARTHMAN! THE OLD VOLCANO BATH?

NO..NO! LET US TRY THE PETRIFICATION RAY WE CAPTURED IN OUR RAID ON VANADU!

HA, HA, HA! OR HOW ABOUT LETTING THE BANDAR BIRDS FEED ON HIM?

AIMING CAREFULLY AT THE POWER CELL OF THE NEAREST ROCKET-SCOOTER, REEF TUGS THE RELEASE OF HIS ELECTRO-GUN. THE TERRIFIC EXPLOSION OF IMPACT TRAVELS BLINDLY FROM SHIP TO SHIP, FOLLOWING THE BEAM OF THE RADIO CONNECTION, AND.

A DOZEN DOWN AND ONE MORE TO GO! NOW FOR THE TOAG CHIEF.. THE BIG GUY!

BUT THE CHIEF SPIES FROM HIS LAIR

THE EARTHMAN! I'LL GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME

AND AS REEF CHARGES INTO THE HUT

OH! OH!

KNUCKLES, DO YOUR DUTY! YOU TOAGS ARE TOO FRISKY FOR PEACEFUL XALAN... WE'LL BE WELL RID OF THE LOT OF YOU!

AS SOON AS YOU STOP BOUNCING, BROTHER, WE'LL TRY AN ENCORE!

N..N...NO...D...D..DON'T! I'LL LEAVE XALAN FOREVER!

BUT AS REEF MOMENTARILY TURNS...

OH, VARA! COME ON, IT'S OVER NOW!

VARA SEES THE TREACHEROUS MOVE AND REEF'S GUN SPRINGS TO HER SHOULDER

GOOD SHOT, VARA! I WOULD HAVE LET HIM GO. BUT NOW WE CAN RETURN AND TELL THE TABESS THAT NEXT WINTER WILL BRING NO MORE TOAGS!

NO, THE TOAGS WILL RAID NO MORE, REEF.. BUT THE EVIL BRAIN OF YOUR GREATEST FOE..THE BARDA! IS PLOTTING GREATER DANGERS FOR YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

Star Pirate

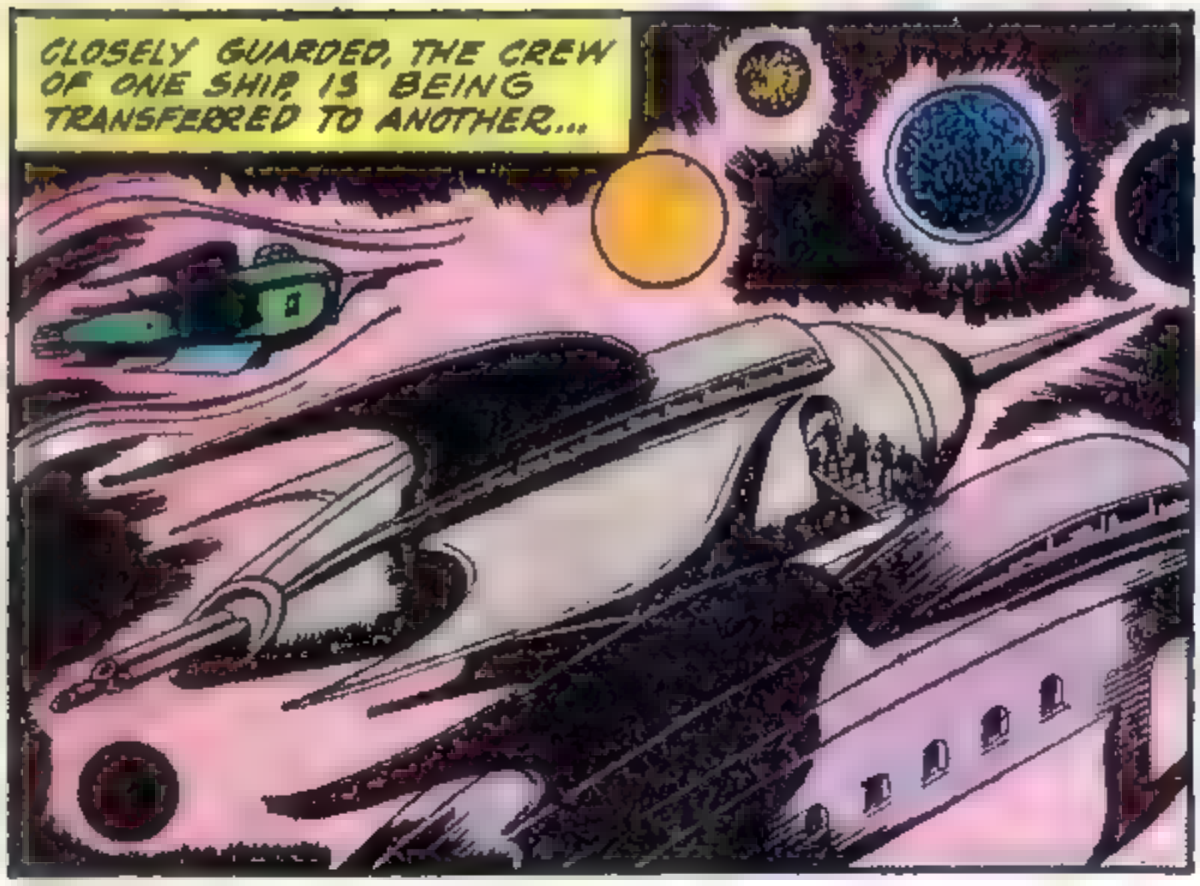
by GEORGE VINCENT

STAR PIRATE, ROBIN HOOD OF THE SPACEWAYS, SAVES A GIRL FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE LAW... ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF PITTED AGAINST THE DREGS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THIEVES OF HUMAN SOULS, SMUGGLERS OF FORBIDDEN DRUGS.

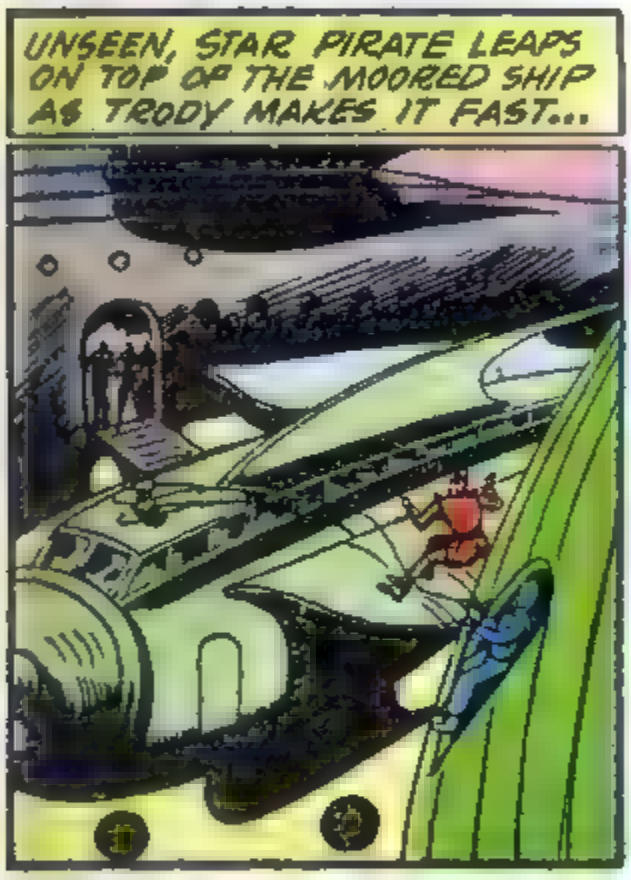
SIDE BY SIDE, IN THEIR SPACE-FRIGATE VENGEANCE, STAR PIRATE AND TRODY SPEED THROUGH THE VOID.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE SIGHTED THE PLANETOID XERT?

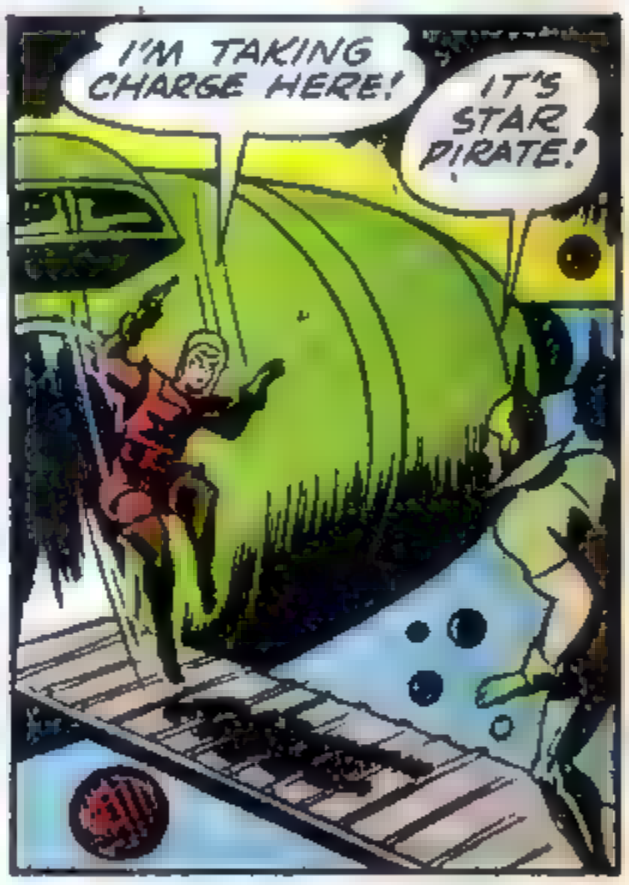
YES. IT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF HUNDRED LEAGUES FROM HERE. LOOK! TWO SHIPS!


CLOSELY GUARDED, THE CREW OF ONE SHIP, IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER...

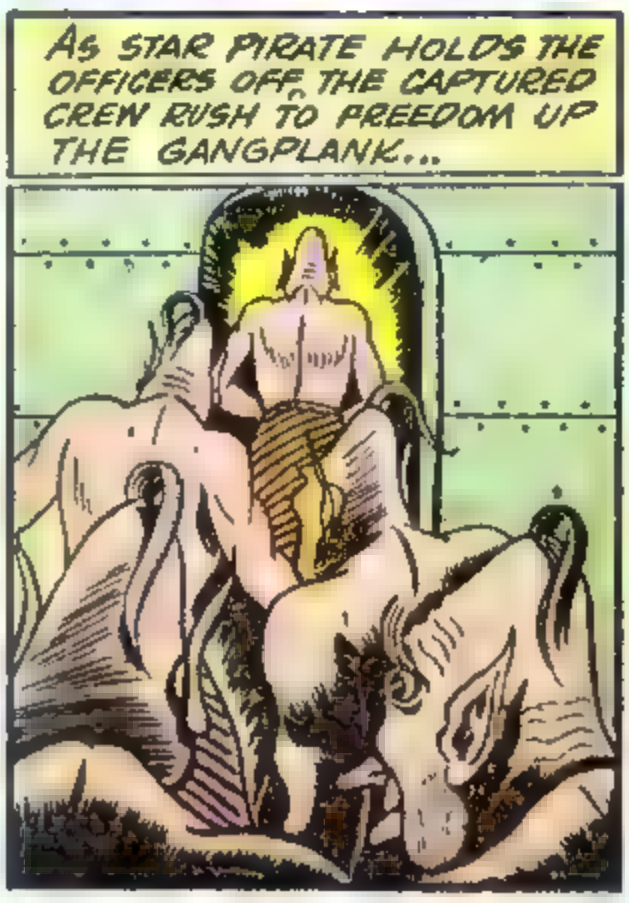
THOSE ARE THE UNIFORMS OF THE SPACE PATROL. WONDER WHAT THE GAME IS? STAND BY TO CAST YOUR GRAPPLE OVER THEIR PORT FIN WHEN I GET ALONGSIDE!

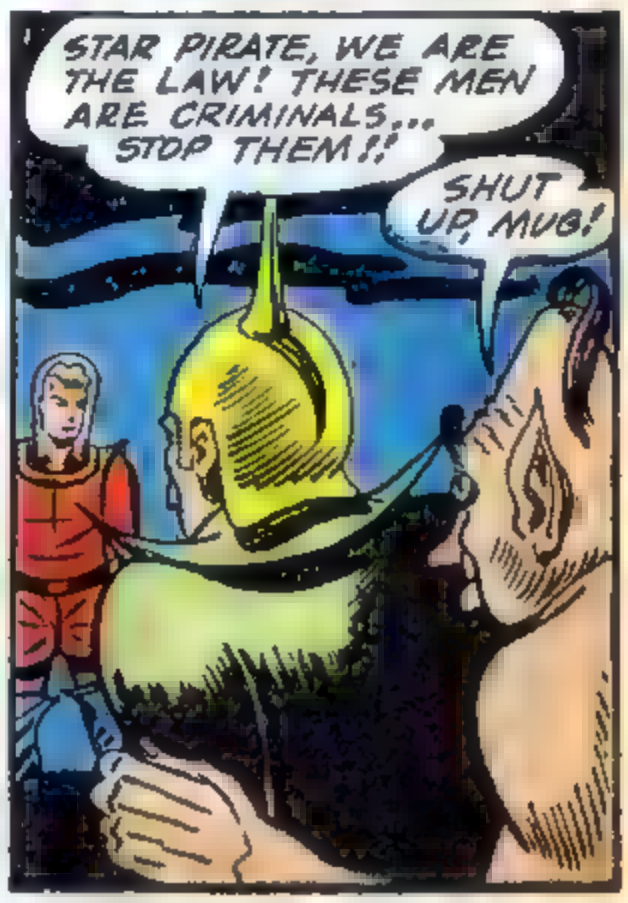

UNSEEN, STAR PIRATE LEAPS ON TOP OF THE MOORED SHIP AS TRODY MAKES IT FAST...

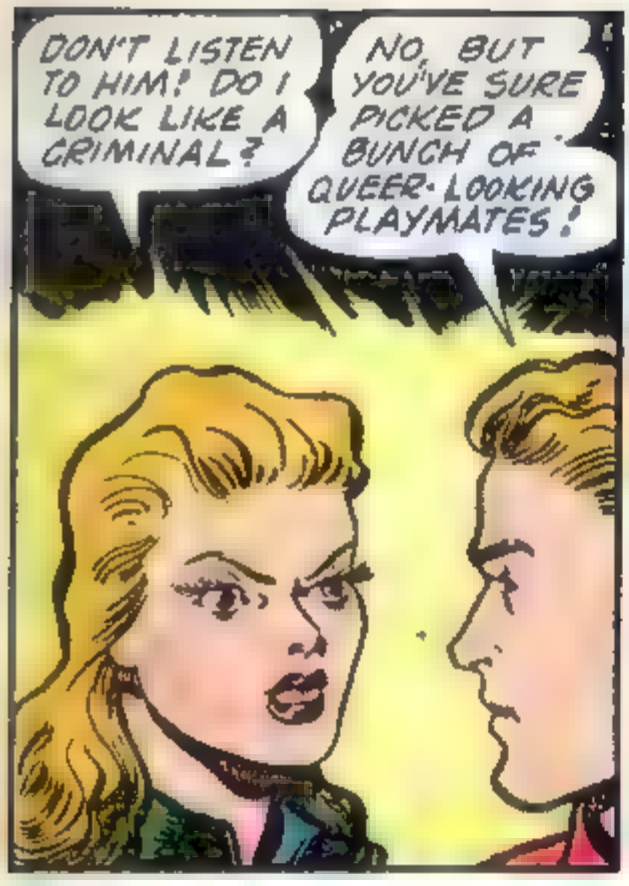
EVERYBODY REACH!

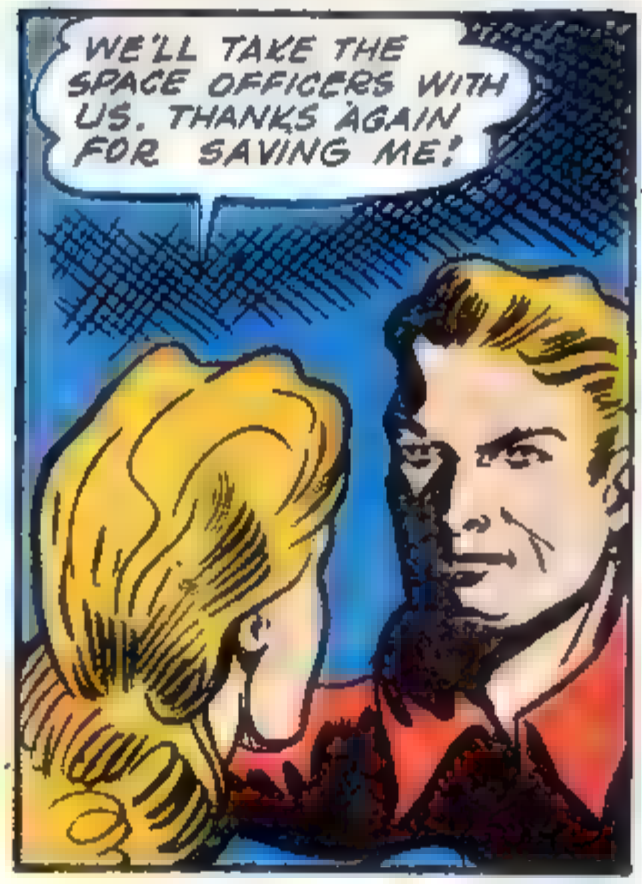

I'M TAKING CHARGE HERE!
IT'S STAR PIRATE!

OKAY, SISTER, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
JUST A LITTLE MIXUP WITH THE SPACE PATROL!.. MAKE THEM RELEASE MY MEN!


AS STAR PIRATE HOLDS THE OFFICERS OFF, THE CAPTURED CREW RUSH TO FREEDOM UP THE GANGPLANK...


STAR PIRATE, WE ARE THE LAW! THESE MEN ARE CRIMINALS... STOP THEM!!
SHUT UP, MUG!


DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! DO I LOOK LIKE A CRIMINAL?
NO, BUT YOU'VE SURE PICKED A BUNCH OF QUEER-LOOKING PLAYMATES!

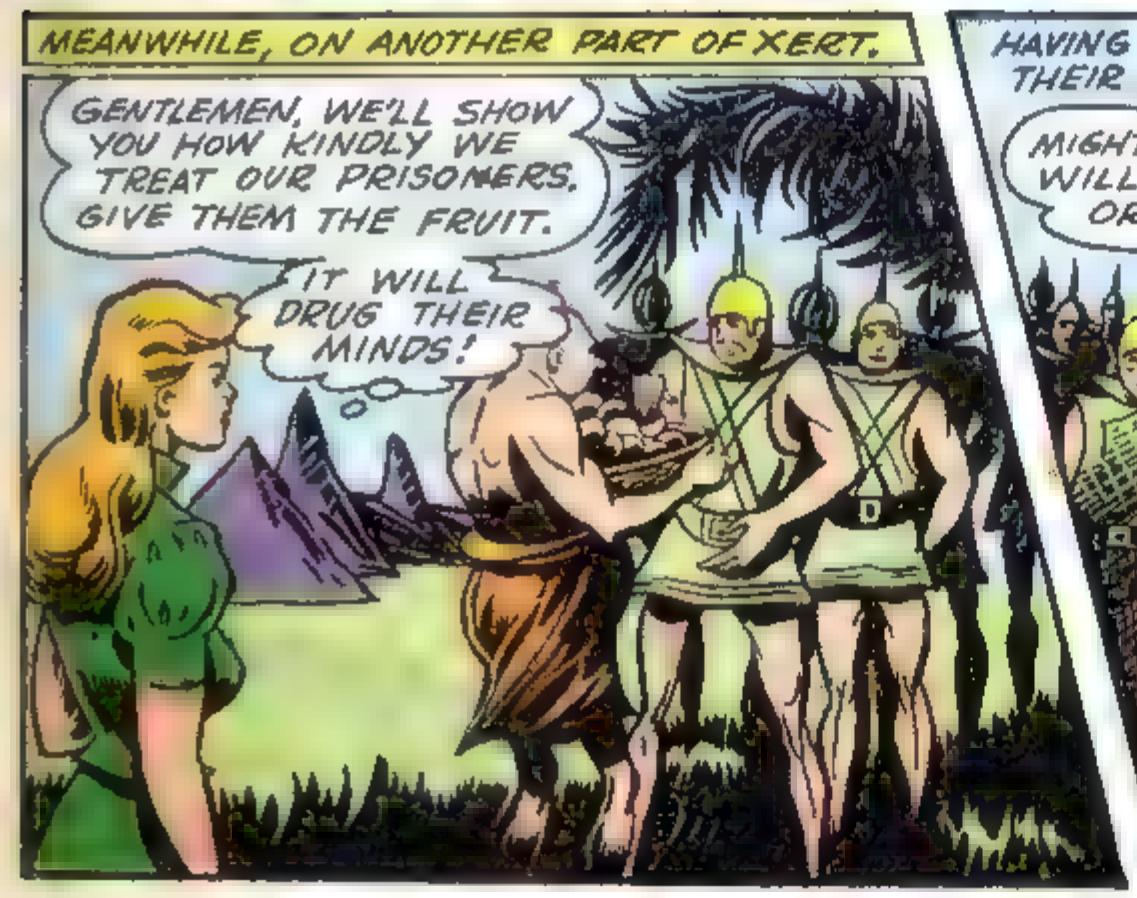

WE'LL TAKE THE SPACE OFFICERS WITH US. THANKS AGAIN FOR SAVING ME!

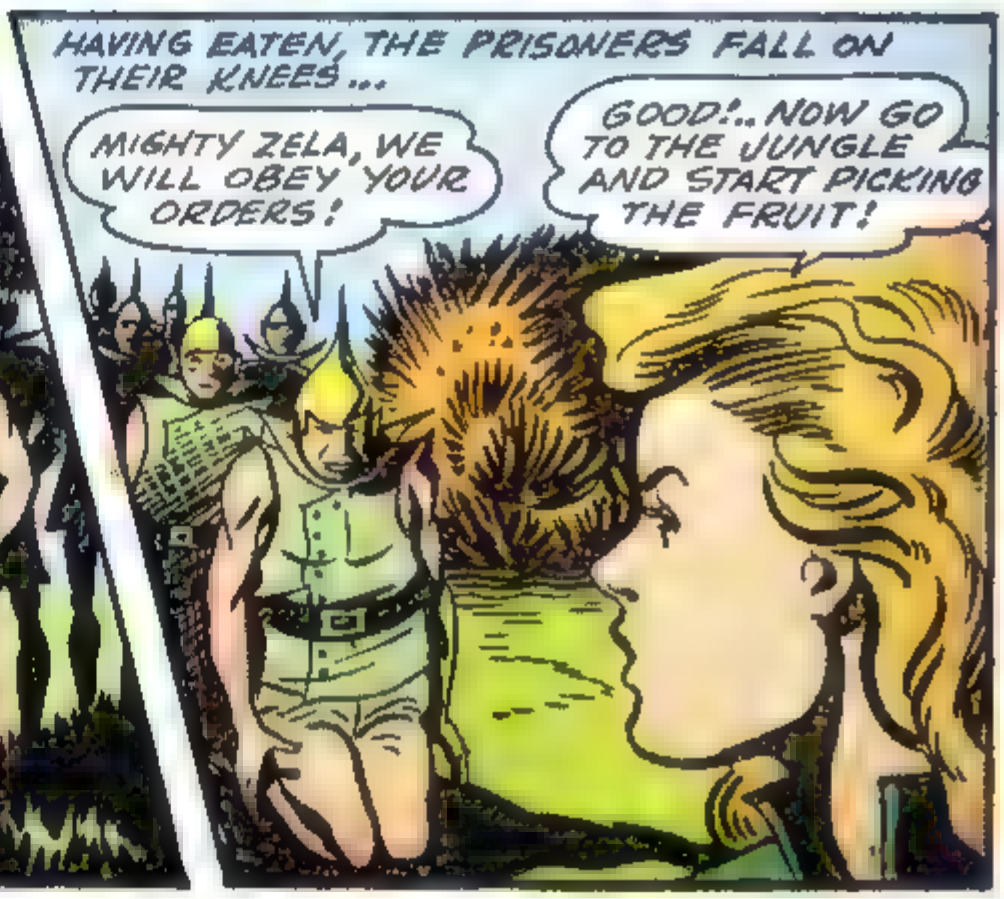
GOODBYE, PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMETIME.
I HOPE SO!

CASTING OFF THEIR MOORINGS, THE SHIPS PART COMPANY...

THE SPACE PATROLMEN CERTAINLY AREN'T FRIENDS OF MINE. BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE NO HARM COMES TO THEM. WE'LL FOLLOW!
GOOD! I THINK THAT DAME HAS SOMETHING UP HER SLEEVE.

HOURS LATER, THE VENGEANCE IS DOCKED ON THE PLANETOID...


MEANWHILE, ON ANOTHER PART OF XERT.
GENTLEMEN, WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW KINDLY WE TREAT OUR PRISONERS. GIVE THEM THE FRUIT.
IT WILL DRUG THEIR MINDS!


HAVING EATEN, THE PRISONERS FALL ON THEIR KNEES...
MIGHTY ZELA, WE WILL OBEY YOUR ORDERS!
GOOD!.. NOW GO TO THE JUNGLE AND START PICKING THE FRUIT!

CAREFULLY HIDDEN IN THE UNDERBRUSH, STAR PIRATE AND TRODY WATCH A STRANGE PROCESSION...

LOOK, TRODY, THEY ARE ZOMBIES! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I DON'T GET IT. GOSH, THAT FRUIT LOOKS GOOD!

I THINK I'LL TRY ONE!

SUDDENLY...

DROP THAT! I SAW YOU FOLLOWING MY SHIP AND I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU EVER SINCE..IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME YOU'D NEVER LEAVE XERT!

WHAT!

NOW GO! FORGET THIS PLACE AND WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN HERE! FROM NOW ON, I OWE YOU NOTHING! MY DEBT IS PAID!

THAT'S OKAY WITH US, SISTER!

WE'RE GOING BACK THERE, TRODY, AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY!

THOSE ZOMBIES GAVE ME THE CREEPS!

MEANWHILE, ZELA RETURNS TO HER SHIP...

THE MEN HAVE PICKED A HUNDRED BUSHELS OF THE HOPGIG FRUIT. DO YOU WANT TO TAKE IT TO YOUR FATHER?

GOOD! HAVE THE SLAVES LOAD MY SHIP! IF STAR PIRATE SHOWS UP AGAIN, GIVE HIM THE WORKS!

BE SEEING YOU! I HOPE WE DON'T RUN INTO ANY MORE PATROLMEN!

TELL YOUR FATHER THE CLIMATE HERE IS GREAT. THE HOPGIG PLANTS ARE THRIVING!

ZELA'S SHIP SPEEDS FROM XERT...

SEVERAL HOURS LATER..

GREETINGS, FATHER! I JUST BROUGHT IN A LOAD OF HOPGIG! WE CAPTURED A SQUADRON OF PATROLMEN AND HAVE THEM WORKING FOR US!

GOOD, COME WITH ME, ZELA! I'VE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

EATEN RAW, THE FRUIT MAKES ONE INTO A ZOMBIE.. DRIED AND MADE INTO POWDER-FORM, IT'S JUST A HABIT-FORMING DRUG!

THE DEMAND FOR HOPGIG IS GREATER THAN THE SUPPLY, I'M GOING TO MOVE SOME MORE PLANETOIDS CLOSER TO THE SUN SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO GROW MORE OF THE STUFF... I'LL SHOW YOU!

WATCH!...THIS MACHINE INCREASES THE MAGNETIC PULL OF THE SUN ON A PLANETOID. DRAWN CLOSER TO THE SUN, THE PLANETOID WILL BECOME WARM ENOUGH TO GROW HOPGIG ON!

YOU LOOK INTO THE SPACESCOPE WHILE I OPERATE IT!

DAD..DAD IT'S MOVING TOWARD THE SUN!

WE'LL FLOOD THE UNIVERSE WITH THE DRUG! EVERY-ONE WILL DEMAND IT AND I'LL KEEP THE PRICE HIGH! WE'LL BE TRILLION-AIRES!! WAIT..THERE IS THE XERT BUZZER CALLING!!

MEANWHILE, ON THE OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLANETOID OF XERT...

NOW WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS MESS!

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! WE DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT AGAIN!

SPEED UP THE PICKERS! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE ANOTHER SHIPMENT TOMORROW!

OKAY, BOSS! AND I'LL MAKE SURE THEY EAT PLENTY THEMSELVES. SO THEY DON'T RECOVER THEIR SENSES!

STAR PIRATE AND TRODY OVERHEAR THE CONVERSATION...

IT'S A FIENDISH DOPE-PEDDLING STUNT! LET'S CLEAN UP ON THOSE BIRDS!

I'LL TAKE THE ONE ON THE RIGHT!

ON YOUR TOES!

WHAT!!

THAT MAKES YOU A ZOMBIE!

HEADS UP, GOON!

THEY'RE OUT!.. ROUND UP THE ZOMBIES AND LOAD THEM ON THE SHIP! I'LL SET FIRE TO THE HOPGIG GROVE!

AS STAR PIRATE AND TRODY RACE TO FINISH THE JOB, ONE OF THE OVERSEERS STAGGERS TOWARD THE PLANTATION...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

FOLLOW ME, MEN.

THEY WON'T GROW ANY MORE HOPGIG ON XERT!

WHAT A BONFIRE! LET'S GO!

MEANWHILE, THE ESCAPED HENCHMAN CALLS ZELA!

THAT FELLER, STAR PIRATE, RETURNED, SET FIRE TO THE HOPGIG GROVE AND TOOK THE DOPED PATROLMEN AWAY!

...WHILE, INSIDE THE VENGEANCE...

NOW TO CALL ON HEADQUARTERS. THE GIRL WON'T SUSPECT THAT WE'VE DESTROYED THEIR NICE LITTLE DREAM-FRUIT PLANTATION!

BUT...

SO, THEY'RE COMING HERE! WE'LL MEET THEM!

AND TREAT THEM AS THOUGH WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY DID ON XERT!

AT THE LANDING FIELD...

GREETINGS, ZELA, I TOLD YOU WE'D SEE YOU AGAIN!

THIS IS A SURPRISE! DAD, MEET STAR PIRATE! HE SAVED US FROM THE SPACE PATROL

GENTLEMEN, COME INSIDE. WE HAVE A TREAT FOR YOU

IN THE MANSION HOUSE..

HERE ARE REFRESHMENTS. MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME! WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

THEY SURE LOOK GOOD...I'M HUNGRY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

SO YOU LICKED THE PLATTER CLEAN! FOOLS, THE FOOD WAS DOPED! YOU BOYS ARENT AS SMART AS YOU LIKE TO THINK!

NERTS ON THAT ZOMBIE STUFF! WE FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO DOPE US. OUR EATING WAS ONLY AN ACT!

SO... YOURE SMART ARENT YOU... WELL TRY TO OUTSMART THIS HAMPTON 88-RAY SPECIAL!

NOT SO FAST, SISTER!

HAVING RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE HOPSIG DRUG, THE SPACE PATROL RUSHES INTO THE ROOM...

WELL, THAT'S THAT, TRODY! NOW WELL DESTROY THE SUN-MACHINE AND GET OUT OF HERE!

THE DRUG RACKET IS CLEANED UP! THAT GIRL AND HER FATHER WILL SPEND MANY YEARS IN JAIL.

Another Exciting Adventure awaits STAR PIRATE and TRODY in the next issue of PLANET COMICS!

AURO Lord of Jupiter

AURO ATTACKS AGAIN..BUT HIS STRENGTH IS OPPOSED BY AN EVIL BRAIN CRAZED WITH THOUGHTS OF REVENGE— WHILE GIANT MONSTERS PRODUCED BY A DEMENTED FIEND ROAM THE PLANET OF JUPITER... DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOWING IN THEIR WAKE!

AURO STROLLS THROUGH THE DENSE JUPITERIAN JUNGLE.. SUDDENLY..

HELP!

WHO CALLS?

A GIANT ANIMAL ATTACKED MY FATHER AND ME! I BROKE FREE, BUT IT KILLED MY FATHER AND RIPPED OUT HIS EYES!

SHOW ME THE WAY..I WILL HELP YOU!

YOU ARE RIGHT, HIS EYES ARE EMPTY SOCKETS! BUT WHY DID THE ANIMAL TAKE ONLY THE EYES?
WE FIRST MUST GET AID FOR YOUR FATHER.. THEN I WILL FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE!
LATER..
MY NAME IS DONNA; AND I DON'T KNOW WHY WE WERE ATTACKED! I AM THANKFUL THOUGH, THAT YOU ARE LETTING ME COME WITH YOU!
SOON AFTER.
LOOK! THERE IS ANOTHER SUCH CREATURE! IT SHALL NOT ESCAPE SO EASILY!
OH!
THIS WILL FINISH YOU!
AURO PLUNGES HIS SWORD DEEP IN THE MULTI-COLORED FLESH!
IT'S DEAD, BUT I THINK PERHAPS WE ARE CLOSE TO THEIR HIDEOUT!
SEE THAT HOLE IN THE WALL? LET US ENTER AND EXPLORE.. WE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING!
YES, BUT BE CAREFUL!
AURO'S BLADE FLASHES THROUGH THE AIR.
WHY.. IT'S NOTHING, BUT...

STONE! THESE ARE STONE IMAGES OF THE THINGS! THERE ARE MANY SUCH IDOLS!

BUT AS THEY WALK DEEPER INTO THE TUNNEL, THE STONE BEAST MOVES AND BARES BLOODTHIRSTY FANGS!

AURO HEARS THE SLIGHT MOVEMENT, AND...

SEE HOW YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF THIS STEEL!

BUT A MASSIVE FOOT WHIPS OUT..

..AH!

HELP! AURO!

SUDDENLY.. JUPITERIAN NATIVES APPEAR, AND ONE SIGNALS THE GIANT ANIMAL..

DOWN! PUT HER DOWN!

TRAPPED BY THE HORDE OF JUPITERIANS, AURO AND DONNA ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE LEADER..

WHY DO YOUR MEN TAKE US AS PRISONERS?

FOR A GOOD REASON, FOOLS!

I AM CYKKA! I LOST MY EYE IN A FIGHT WITH STUPID JUPITERIAN POLICE! FOR THIS, **ALL** JUPITERIANS SHALL PAY WITH **THEIR** EYES! THE GIANT LIZARDS OBEY ME AND SECURE EYES FOR THE GOD! BEHOLD! BEHIND YOU!

A GIANT EYE GOD WHICH THE NATIVES WORSHIP AS THEIR GOD! I WILL DEMONSTRATE. BRING ME A SACRIFICIAL VICTIM!

YES, MASTER!

THEN...

DON'T RIP MY EYES OUT!

FASTER! SEE HOW THE GIANT EYEBALL MOVES? IT IS IMPATIENT!

NOW'S MY CHANCE

AHH!

THIS WILL STOP YOU BLACK-HEARTED DEVILS FOR A WHILE!

WHILE THE GUARDS ARE THROWN INTO CONFUSION, AURO RACES BEHIND THE IDOL. . . .

TO YOUR FEET, DOGS!

I MUST FIND A WAY OUT.. PERHAPS THIS DOOR..

INSIDE. . .

SO! THE EYE IDOL IS JUST MACHINERY! THESE LEVERS ROLL THE EYE-BALL! THIS IS HOW CYKKA DUPED HIS PEOPLE!

MEANWHILE. .

YOU HAVE LET THE MAN ESCAPE!

BUT WE SHALL USE THE GIRL. . . **SHE** SHALL NOW BE OUR IDOL'S SACRIFICE!

THESE STAIRS LEAD TO THE EYE.. I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUND!
THERE IS AN OPENING IN THE EYE! I CAN SEE THE ROOM BELOW!
WHA'..?! DONNA IS STRAPPED TO THAT TABLE! AND...
HAAA! THIS INSTRUMENT WILL PLUCK THE EYES FROM THE FAIR ONE.. FOR OUR GOD!
I MUST WORK THOSE LEVERS, OR DONNA WILL BE LOST!
THEY ARE NOT AS SIMPLE AS I THOUGHT! THEY DO NOT MOVE!
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO!
I.... MUST.... PUSH....
..AND THE CRUEL EYE WILL BRING DEATH TO IT'S FIENDISH WORSHIPPERS!
THE EYE!
HELP!
OHH!

AURO RACES TO DONNA'S AID..
STOP!
UHH?!

TOO LATE.. NO ONE CAN STOP CYKKA NOW! I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!

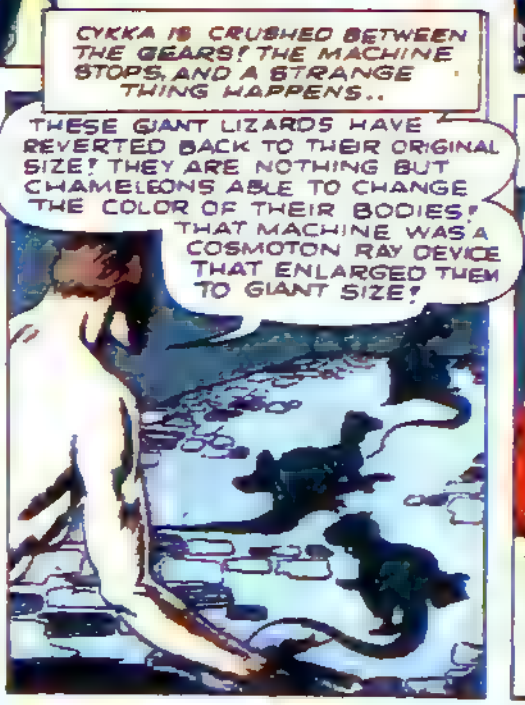
PERHAPS THIS WILL STOP YOU!

YOU'RE SAFE NOW FROM THAT MANIAC!
HE..HE WAS GOING TO TAKE MY EYES!

AS CYKKA RECOVERS HIS SENSES..
SO, EVIL ONE, YOU WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE!

AURO STRIKES, AND CYKKA FALLS INTO THE WHIRLING MACHINERY!

AHGG!


CYKKA IS CRUSHED BETWEEN THE GEARS! THE MACHINE STOPS, AND A STRANGE THING HAPPENS..
THESE GIANT LIZARDS HAVE REVERTED BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL SIZE! THEY ARE NOTHING BUT CHAMELEONS ABLE TO CHANGE THE COLOR OF THEIR BODIES! THAT MACHINE WAS A COSMOTON RAY DEVICE THAT ENLARGED THEM TO GIANT SIZE!

LATER, AS AURO AND DONNA BID FAREWELL TO THE RELEASED JUPITERIAN NATIVES..
WE SHALL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL TO YOU!
I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE FREE!
THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS HOLDS FURTHER ADVENTURES FOR AURO, MIGHTY LORD OF JUPITER!

Fifteen thousand years ago there was no moon!

Fifteen thousand years ago the moon was a part of earth, a great continent in the Atlantic ocean, the exposed surface green with growing vegetation, and laced with winding roads built there by a highly evolved civilization. And then a cataclysmic disturbance hurled the great chunk of matter from Earth's side, spun it through space, where gravity linked it eternally with its parent planet.

There it spins today, circling the Earth silently, always presenting but one face, as though the other holds secrets that will not be revealed until space-flight is accomplished, until men can explore the shadowed craters and mountains that may hold the answer to a riddle that has puzzled historians for centuries.

That is a theory that is gaining credence among thinking people today. That is the theory that many believe explains the moon itself—and the mystery of mythical Atlantis.

Fantastic? Perhaps!

Impossible?

Let me tell you a story, one you may have heard; but, nevertheless, one that grows more fascinating as a person tries to pry loose the secrets from the past.

Plato told it first in the *Timaeus*, telling of an island in the Atlantic ocean that was larger and more fruitful than Asia Minor and Libya combined. It was situated just west of the Pillars of Hercules, which is now called the Straits of Gibraltar, and it was peopled with a race so scientifically and economically strong that they ruled a vast land [illegible] the Mediterranean. But they became overstrong and dictatorial, and some cosmic justice erased them and their land from existence.

Atlantis was a long, rather narrow island, bordered with towering mountains on the west. Green water lapped sandy beaches and *triremes* plied the ocean, carrying great cargoes of trade goods to the harbors of the nation. Great canals were dug far back into the land so that storms might not wreck the ships as they unloaded their goods and the cargo were protected. Later, when great artificial basins so that defensive might be manned should some invading fleet come sweeping in from the [illegible]

Three great circular walls surrounded the central city. The outer was of brass, the middle of silver, and the inner of gold. All of the walls were carved and sculptured by great artisans, and were beautiful as well as impregnable. In the space encircled, lay the largest city of Atlantis, quartered by two canals used for pleasure sailing in small boats. The buildings were graceful, glowing with rich colors; and the trading district was as clean and beautiful as the ones in which the people lived.

The country was divided into ten portions, and in each a ruler governed his people. The Temple of Poseidon, in the central city, was the seat of government—and there the rulers met every twelve months to decide the matters of state.

The Temple itself was the finest example of building combining beauty and architectural beauty in the land. It had four rooms, of which the [illegible] was the largest. Towering in the center of the room was a great statue of Poseidon riding in his chariot, pulled by twelve horses. Dolphins disported about the Sea God's chariot, as though he were just from the foaming ocean—and all was carved from solid gold.

The temple rooms were lofty, draped with glowing tapestries, the seats of gleaming red *orichalcum*. Soft rugs were on the floors, and acolytes of the Priesthood polished and cleaned without cease, that their worshipping place might be the greatest in the world.

About the room, three on a side, were life-sized statues of the hereditary rulers of the country, eight golden statues of men and four of slender women. It was during the reign of the thirteenth ruler that chaos and oblivion came to the fabled Atlantis.

The people were divided into four classes: the rulers and administrative bodies, the soldiery, the priesthood, and the workers. All worked in close harmony, each doing his specific tasks for the common good, and all integrated when matters of national importance came up for discussion or action.

Expeditions, exploratory, punitive and colonizing, were sent each month about the world, to trade or conquer or establish new colonies of Atlanteans, much as modern nations have done. Legends from widely scattered

IS ATLANTIS ON THE MOON?

parts of the world tell of the blue-eyed, golden-skinned men and women who crossed the oceans on ships with flaring sails. Others tell of the fierce dark men who drove all before them in their conquest of neighboring nations.

It is believed by many historians and scientists that Egypt was originally a colony of Atlantis; for Egypt sprang full-fledged, its knowledge high, its science much advanced—while almost all other countries have histories that show a gradual building upward from a savage or semi-civilized state.

One of the most authorative books upon Atlantis is: "Atlantis, the Antediluvian World," by Ignatus Donnelly, written at the last of the Nineteenth Century, and which meets and answers many of the queries and discrepancies of the Atlantis legend. Perhaps the most interesting feature of this work is the seriousness with which it treats the subject at hand—for most legends are acknowledged as such, regardless of the fact that almost all legends are based upon facts, distorted and made fanciful as they are during the years through which they are told.

However, Atlantis is much more than a myth—for such men as Montaigne, Buffon and Voltaire have admitted their belief in its existence. Others, more scientifically trained, also admit that Atlantis existed in the misty past.

But in the height of its power, Atlantis completely disappeared, gone as though it had never been, leaving only legends to tell of its greatness.

It was told by Plato, and by others whose writings have come to us, that Atlantis grew too great, too domineering in its lust for power, and infuriated the Gods in whose greatness belief had begun to dwindle. The Gods wrenched the earth apart with titanic explosions, sent fire and death from the sky, created a monstrous tidal wave that inundated the great continent. In a few short hours only grey pumice and oily mud lay on the sea where once a mighty nation had flourished.

This legend is scientifically sound, for many are the articles that have been written about islands that have had volcanic explosions and disappeared beneath the ocean's surface.

So much, momentarily, for Atlantis.

One of the soundest scientific theories broached has been that the moon was once a part of Earth, and was wrenched away by other gravities, there to hang in the sky. It is further theorized and acknowledged that, in all probability, the moon was once a part of the Atlantic ocean.

And it is my belief that—

The moon was once the great Atlantis.

In the chaotic cataclysym that erased Atlantis from the Earth, ancient historians believed that the continent sank beneath the waves. It is my belief that Atlantis, in all its boundaries, was torn from the ocean and hurled into space.

Scientific facts make the theory tenable, and legend bears the theory still further. I believe, and I have studied this subject for many years, that Atlantis is on the moon.

Atlanteans live there even today, their science more developed and profound than ours will be in centuries, their race protected against the stress of living on the moon by great domes of live energy beneath which people live in complete happiness. They are hidden from us, because they live on the side of the moon away from Earth—but I believe that they observe our life and our actions through monster telescopes, and that some day they will flash to Earth in gleaming space-ships, bringing lost knowledge and new sciences to us who live here'now.

When that day comes, when a streak of light from the tubes of a great space-ship light the skies, then we shall know the true story of all that happened on Earth one hundred and fifty centuries ago. Until that day, we can but make conjectures, basing them upon legends and scientific probabilities, and draw conclusions such as I have made in this very condensed article.

A great and wise man once said, "There are more wonders under the sun than the mind of man can comprehend."

To paraphrase the quotation: "There is a *greater* wonder on the moon than the mind of man can believe."

I believe that Atlantis is on the moon; that the moon is Atlantis.

What is *your* belief?

Another amazing FUTURE-FACT science feature will appear in the next issue of PLANET COMICS

THE LOST WORLD

by THORNECLIFFE HERRICK

HUNT BOWMAN, LONE SURVIVOR OF THE PLAGUE AND DESTRUCTION DEALT TO THE EARTH BY VOLTA'S MERCILESS WARRIORS, RETURNS WITH QUEEN LYSSA, OF THE LOST WORLD, TO HIS NATIVE PLANET... AWARE OF HIS PLAN TO REUNITE HUMAN TRIBES SCATTERED ABOUT THE UNIVERSE, VOLTA'S WARLORD DECREES DEATH FOR THOSE WHO FAIL TO TRACK DOWN THE FEARLESS ARCHER...

CIRCLING CAUTIOUSLY OVER NEW YORK HARBOR IN A VOLTA SHIP THEY CAPTURED ON THE LOST WORLD, HUNT AND LYSSA ARE AWED BY THE RUINS...

NORTHWARD THEY CRUISE ABOVE CENTRAL PARK, NOW A BLEAK WOODLAND INHABITED BY SAVAGE BEASTS PROGENERATED FROM THE ZOO.

LYSSA FEARS IT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS SPOT TO LAND, SO HUNT SWINGS THE SHIP AROUND.

CUTTING OFF THE ENERGY, HUNT GLIDES WEST. GRIZZLY BEARS AND ELK PAUSE TO STARE AT THE HUGE WINGLESS BIRD...

LIONS BASKING BEFORE THEIR DEN ON THE STUMP OF A FALLEN SKYSCRAPER, ROAR DEFIANTLY AS THEY PASS...

SUDDENLY FROM AN UNSCATHED BUILDING RAPID-FIRE ELECTRON BOLTS BLAST OUT AT THE WANDERING CRAFT...

THE PALE MAN WHO JOINED HUNT ON THE LOST WORLD, SCREAMS IN TERROR AS THE SHIP LURCHES..

LIKE A GREAT BULLET THE SPACE CRAFT SWEEPS DOWN DESOLATE EIGHTH AVENUE...

REACHING THE TIP OF MANHATTAN, HUNT VEERS THE CRUISER OVER ROTTING HULKS THAT CLOG THE BAY BELOW THE SCARRED SKELETON OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE...

AHEAD ON BEDLOES ISLAND, THE LOFTY SENTINEL OF A FORGOTTEN FREEDOM, LURES THEIR GAZE...

THE SYMBOLIC SPIRE INTRIGUES THE LIBERTY LOVING TRIO, SO HUNT BRINGS THE SPACE SHIP DOWN.

EMERGING CAUTIOUSLY THEY STARE IN STRANGE WONDER AT THE LADY OF BRONZE.

HUNT DISCOVERS AN OPEN DOOR LEADING TO A STAIRWAY, AND URGES THE OTHERS TO JOIN HIM...

LYSSA WARNS THAT IT'S A VOLTA PATROL COMING TO CAPTURE THEM...

THEY REACH THE TORCH JUST AS TWO VOLTA SHIPS FLASH EARTHWARD OVER THE SINKING SUN.

AS THE TRIO RACES MADLY DOWN THE STAIRS, A PATROL SQUAD LANDS TO INVESTIGATE...

BUT HUNT REACHES THE BASE AHEAD OF THE SQUAD AND QUICKLY NOTCHES A SHAFT TO HIS GREAT LONGBOW.

THE KODIP MEN FROM VOLTA FALL BACK AT THE SUDDEN ATTACK.

AND THE TRIO RUSHES FOR THEIR SHIP AS THE SECOND SHIP LANDS.

AS HUNT ZOOMS THE CRAFT AWAY, AN ELECTRON BLAST FROM BELOW SHORT-CIRCUITS THE POWER...

FOUR HANDS STRUGGLE WITH THE CONTROLS IN A VAIN EFFORT TO HOLD THE SHIP ALOFT...

AT THE LAST MOMENT HUNT OPENS THE AIR LOCK AND THE TRIO DIVES CLEAR...

THE BROODING SILENCE IS BROKEN BY THE DRONE OF A VOLTA PATROL SHIP STILL SEARCHING FOR THEM AS THEY ARE SWEPT BACK TO MANHATTAN ON A RISING TIDE...

SAFELY ASHORE, HUNT SPOTS A LANTERN ON AN ANCHOR POST OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE...

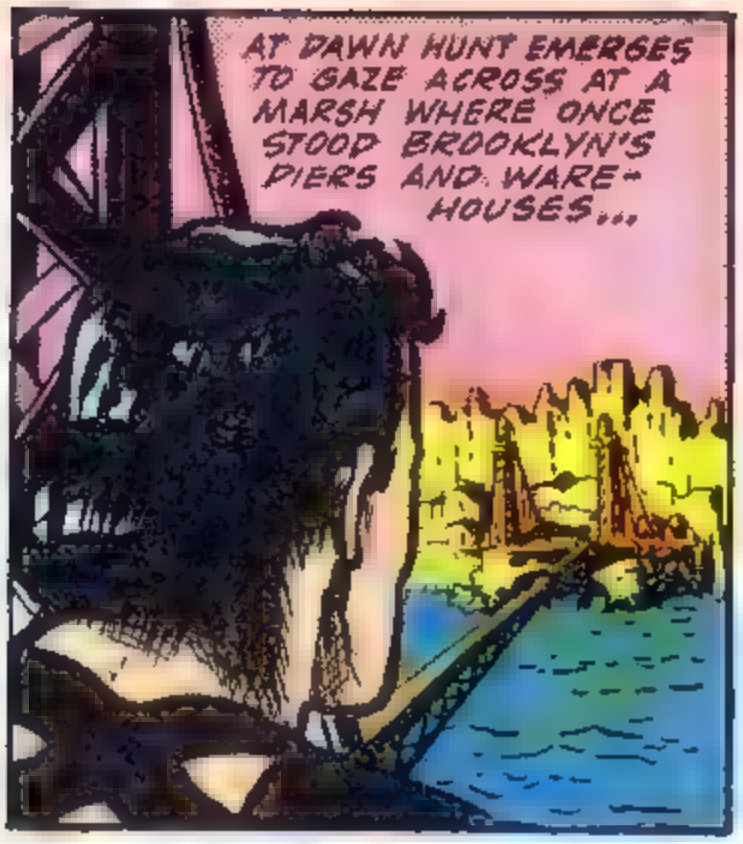
THEY ADVANCE QUIETLY UP THE RAMP, HOPEFUL OF TAKING A SENTRY POST BY SURPRISE.

THE LAMP FLICKERS OUT..AND TO THEIR AMAZEMENT AN EARTHMAN APPEARS TO GREET THEM...

BACKING TOWARD A CLEVERLY CONCEALED DOOR, THE HERMIT BIDS THEM TO ENTER...

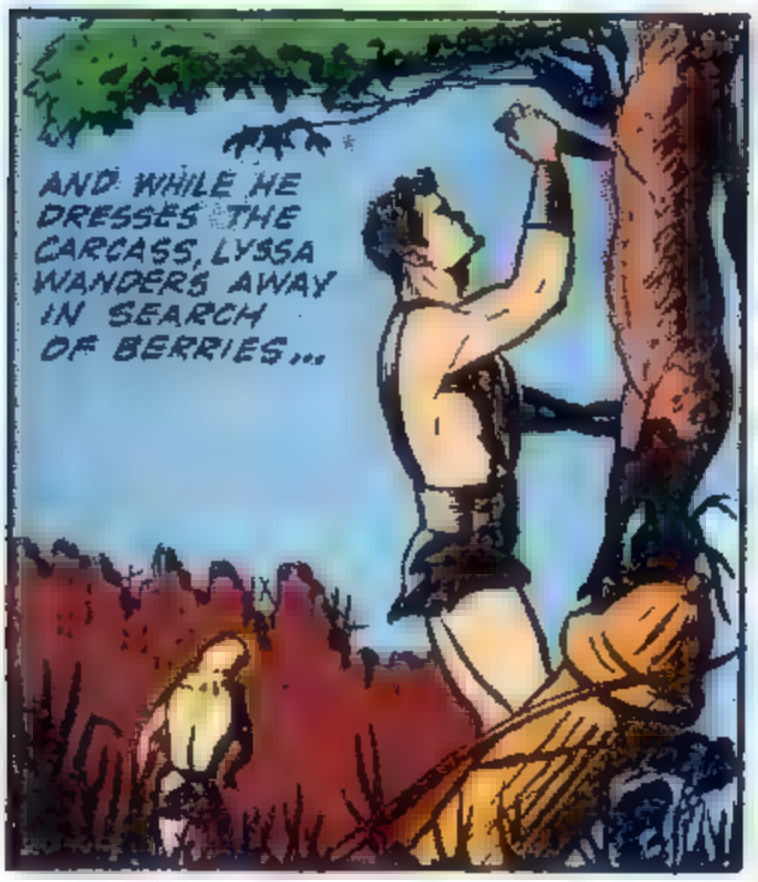
MAXSON THE HERMIT WHISTLES IN WONDER AS HUNT RELATES THEIR ADVENTURES AND THE SAGA OF THE LOST WORLD.

EXCUSING HIS SCANT LARDER MAXSON SAYS IF ALL GOES WELL THEY CAN STALK A DEER ON THE MORROW...


AT DAWN HUNT EMERGES TO GAZE ACROSS AT A MARSH WHERE ONCE STOOD BROOKLYN'S PIERS AND WARE-HOUSES...

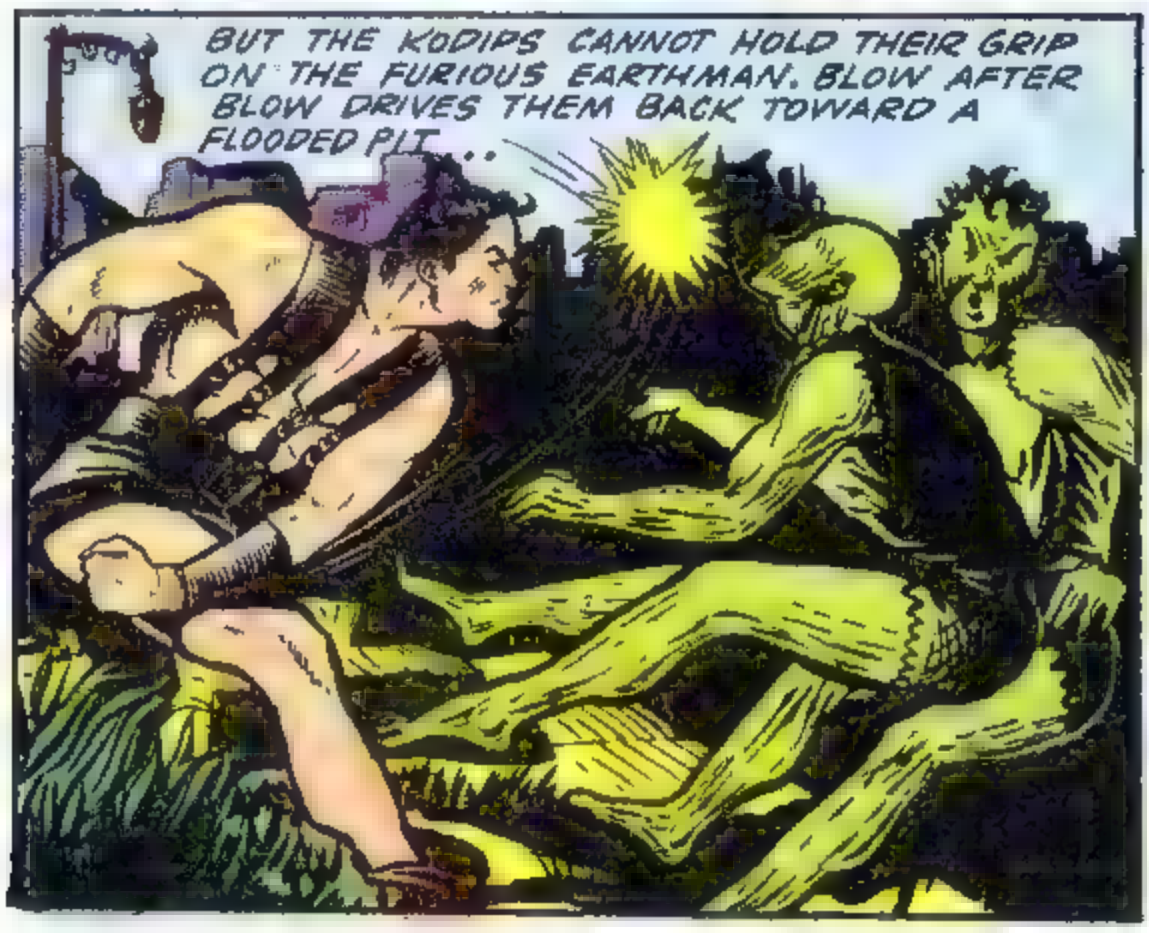
HUNT AND LYSSA DE-PART FOR THE CHASE, WARNING MAXSON TO KEEP WATCH FOR VOLTA PATROLS.

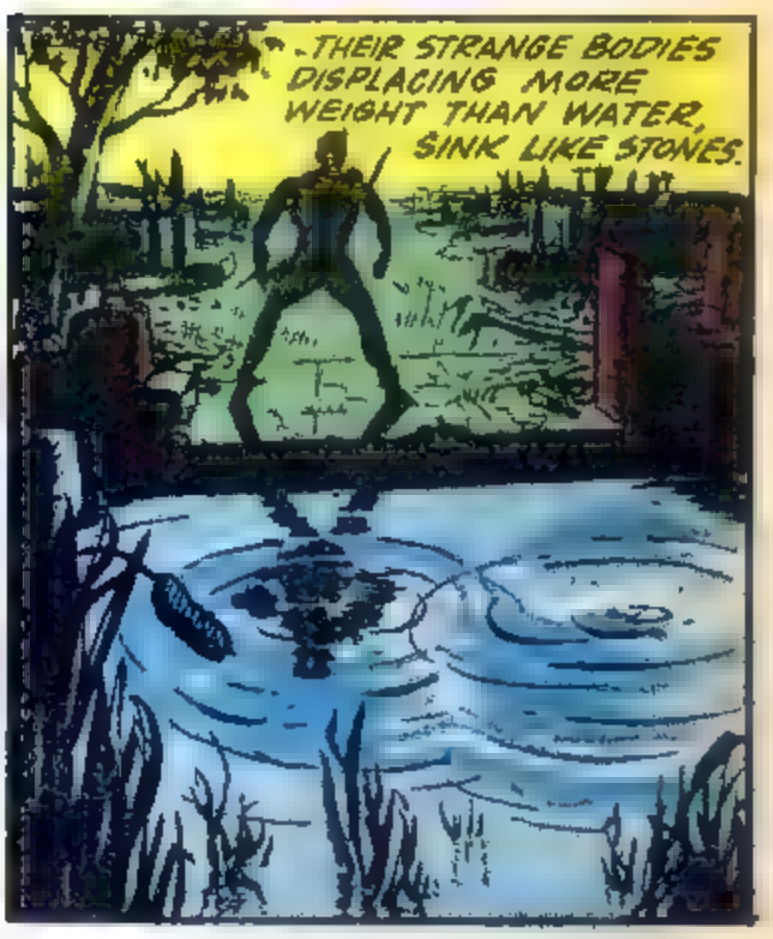
IN THE MARSH, HUNT SCORES A DIFFICULT SHOT...


AND WHILE HE DRESSES THE CARCASS, LYSSA WANDERS AWAY IN SEARCH OF BERRIES...

KODIPS, LURKING NEARBY, TAKE HER BY SURPRISE...

AN INSTANT LATER AS LYSSA'S WARNING CRY REACHES HUNT, HE TOO IS SEIZED...


BUT THE KODIPS CANNOT HOLD THEIR GRIP ON THE FURIOUS EARTHMAN. BLOW AFTER BLOW DRIVES THEM BACK TOWARD A FLOODED PIT...

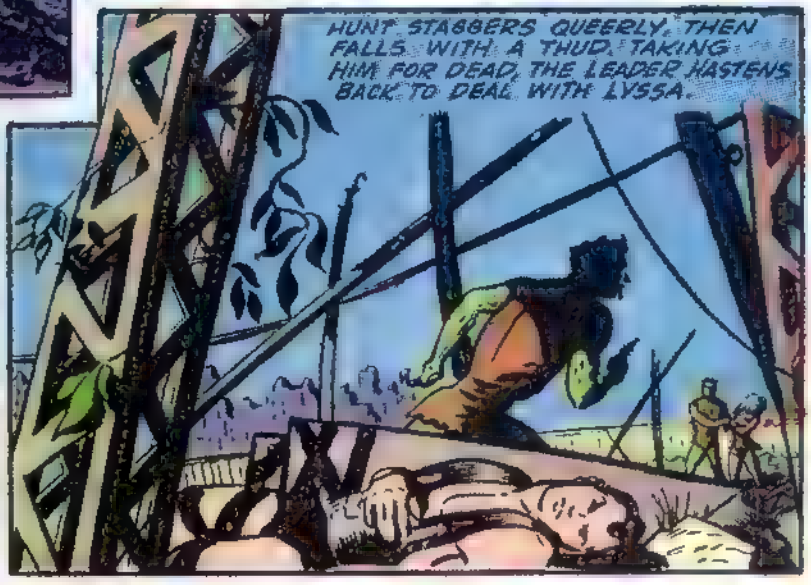

THEIR STRANGE BODIES DISPLACING MORE WEIGHT THAN WATER, SINK LIKE STONES.

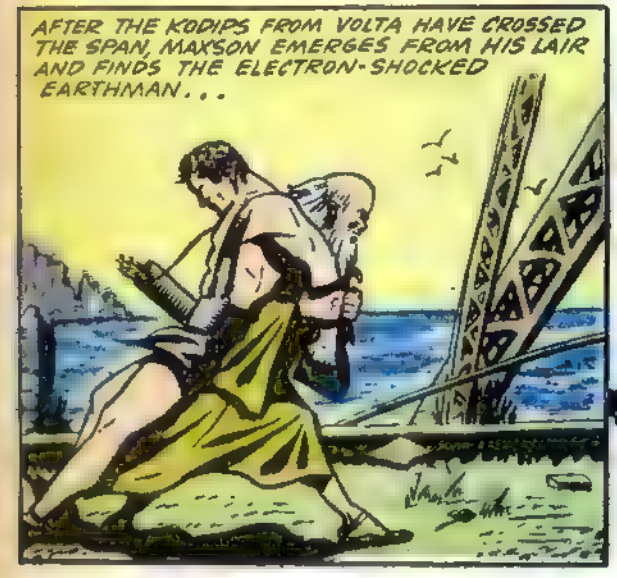
SEETHING WITH RAGE, HUNT DRAWS A DEADLY AIM ON THE TRAILING KODIP.

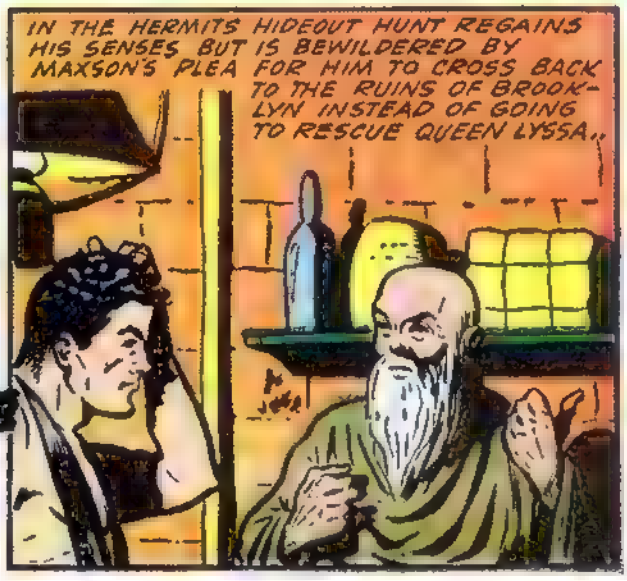
A SPLIT SECOND LATER AN INHUMAN SCREAM KNIFES THE DAMP AIR.

AS THE KODIP FALLS TO HIS DEATH, THE SQUAD LEADER THREATENS TO KILL LYSSA UNLESS SHE WARNS HUNT TO CEASE FIRING...

WHEN LYSSA REFUSES, THE LEADER DROPS BEHIND TO BLAST AT HUNT FROM AN AMBUSH.


HUNT STAGGERS QUEERLY, THEN FALLS WITH A THUD. TAKING HIM FOR DEAD, THE LEADER HASTENS BACK TO DEAL WITH LYSSA.


AFTER THE KODIPS FROM VOLTA HAVE CROSSED THE SPAN, MAXSON EMERGES FROM HIS LAIR AND FINDS THE ELECTRON-SHOCKED EARTHMAN...


IN THE HERMITS HIDEOUT HUNT REGAINS HIS SENSES BUT IS BEWILDERED BY MAXSON'S PLEA FOR HIM TO CROSS BACK TO THE RUINS OF BROOKLYN INSTEAD OF GOING TO RESCUE QUEEN LYSSA..

RISKING DISCOVERY BY THE KODIP PATROL, THEY CROSS THE EAST RIVER...

BEYOND THE BROOKLYN SHORE, MAXSON CALLS A HALT AT A DECAYING HULK OF A HUGE FACTORY..

HE LEADS HUNT INTO A LABORATORY WHERE HE HAS MADE EXPERIMENTS WITH AN ATOM SMASHER.

HUNT'S UNSCIENTIFIC MIND STRUGGLES TO GRASP THE HERMIT'S EXPLANATION OF ELECTRONIC THEORY...

BUT HE AGREES TO THROW THE SWITCHES FOR MAXSON'S INITIAL TEST OF RAY-PROOF ARMOR PLATE...

A GENERATOR THROBS WEIRDLY.. THEN A DEADLY STREAM OF ELECTRONS IS FIRED AGAINST THE SHIELD...

TREMBLING WITH JOY AT HIS SUCCESS, MAXSON PRESENTS A SHIELD TO HUNT WHO FORSEES RESCUE OF LYSSA.

A THUNDER SQUALL LASHES THE DISMAL STREETS AS THEY HASTEN TOWARD THE RIVER.

SUNLIGHT RETURNS WHEN THEY EMBARK IN MAXSON'S DINGHY.

THE HERMIT STEERS FOR MIDSTREAM WHERE A STRONG EBB TIDE SWEEPS THEM TOWARD THE BAY...

AS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY COMES INTO VIEW, HUNT SPOTS LYSSA AND HER CAPTORS ON A RAFT AHEAD...

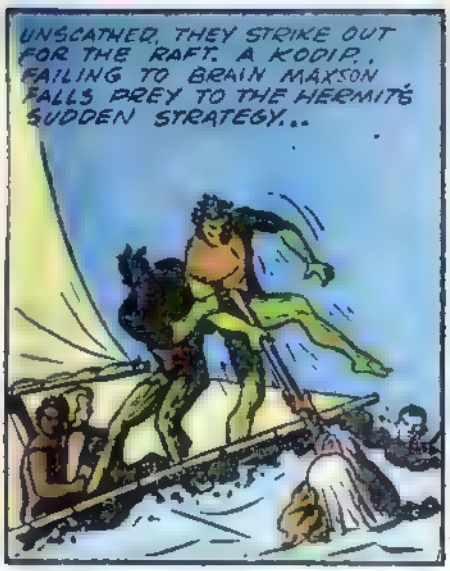
THE LOST WORLD'S GALLANT QUEEN SHUDDERS AS THE KODIPS MUTTER OMINOUSLY AND SNAP THE PROJECTORS ON THEIR ELECTRONIC PISTOLS.

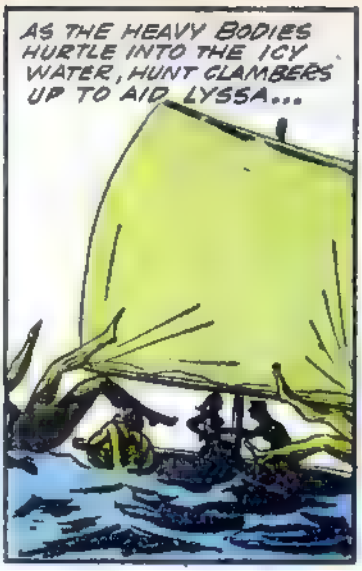
BUT HUNT HOLDS AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE WHILE MAXSON'S CRAFT BEARS DOWN ON THE ENEMY...

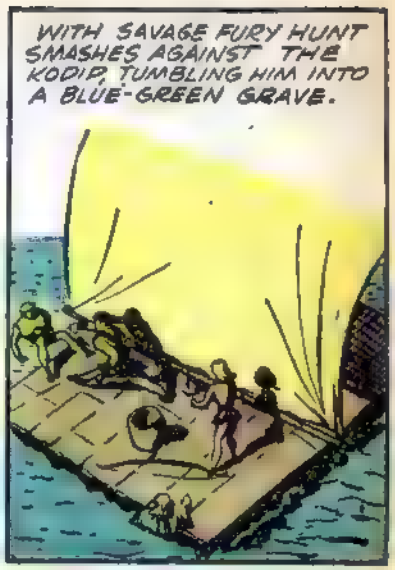
THEIR GUNS EMPTY, THE VOLTA MEN RUSH FURIOUSLY FORWARD OFF THE BOAT...

SUDDENLY, FROM A SPACE CRAFT ON THE ISLAND, A BLINDING BEAM FLASHES ACROSS THE BAY...

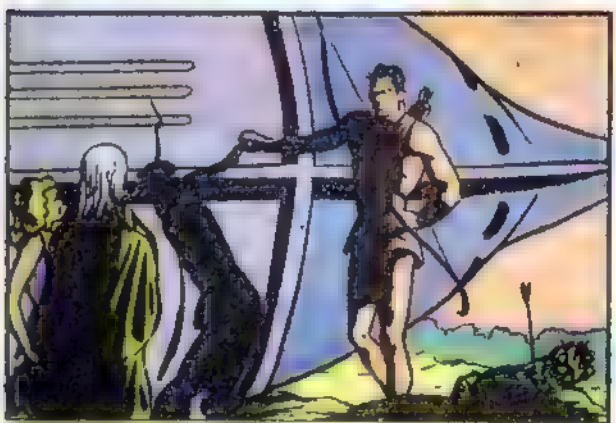
THE DINGHY IS DISINTEGRATED BY THE ELECTRONIC BLAST, BUT HUNT AND MAXSON, PROTECTED BY THEIR SHIELDS, ARE BLOWN CLEAR...



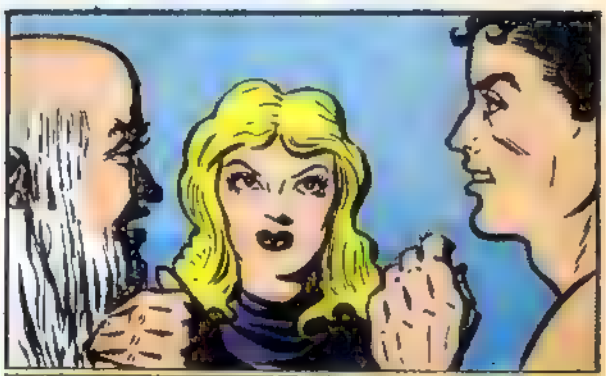




ON BEDLOES ISLAND THE KILLER CREW, PANICKED BY THE HUMANS' APPARENT IMMUNITY TO ELECTRONIC RAYS, WORKS FRANTICALLY TO DISLODGE THE PATROL SHIP'S FINS...



ASHORE, UNDER THE LIBERTY LADY'S SHADOW, HUNT DECLARES THAT ARMORING THIS NEW SHIP WITH MAXSON'S ANTI-RAY PLATE, THEY CAN CAPTURE SCORES OF VOLTA WAR-CRAFT...



MAXSON NODS SAGELY AND ADDS THAT HUNT CAN THEN RECRUIT EARTHMEN ON THE LOST WORLD TO MAN THE SHIPS. IT'S A GREAT PLAN, HUNT AGREES. FOR THE HUMANS CAN AMASS A FLEET TO WIN FREEDOM FOR EARTH. AMAZING ADVENTURES OF THE LOST WORLD FOLLOW IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS !!

GALE ALLEN and the GIRL SQUADRON

BY Douglas McKee

BLINDING DEATH! STRIKING DOWN THOUSANDS ON OTHER PLANETS, IT HAS ALREADY ATTACKED THE OUTPOSTS OF VANAM. FIRST, TOTAL BLINDNESS. THEN, A FEW SHORT HOURS LATER, SUDDEN, HORRIBLE DEATH!

GALE, MARTO IS COMING TO VANAM IN HIS GOLDEN COMET SPACE-LINER TO INVESTIGATE THE BLIND DEATH! HE HAS MUCH WEALTH AND MANY POLITICAL ENEMIES. I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT NOTHING HAPPENS TO HIM.

THEN, VICEROY, PERHAPS I'D BETTER DOUBLE MY SPACE PATROL!

NO, NO... I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN... YOU'D BETTER DO THIS...

GALE ALLEN

and the GIRL SQUADRON

BY Douglas McKee

L. Elias
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NO, NO...I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN... YOU'D BETTER DO THIS....

LATER, GALE CIRCULATES AMONG THE WAITING CROWD!

I'M NOT SURE THE VICEROY'S IDEA WAS THE BEST THING THIS FLOWER GIRL DISGUISE ISN'T. MUCH!

SUDDENLY A MAN NEAR GALE IS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED!

HERE'S A LITTLE TOKEN FROM MARTO!

HELP! OH

THE VANAM POLICE QUICKLY CORNER THE KILLERS

BUT, OFFICER, WE ARE SECRET AGENTS OF MARTO THIS MAN IS ONE OF HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES!

YES! WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO ASSASSINATE MARTO WHEN HE LANDED!

YES?

BUT GALE IS SUSPICIOUS.

I DON'T LIKE THIS! THAT LOOKED MORE LIKE A VICIOUS KILLING TO ME I'D BETTER LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS MARTO!

SO YOU SEE WE COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE!

PERHAPS IT WAS BETTER YOU KILLED HIM IF HE HAD EVER SHOT

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE GREAT GOLDEN COMET STRATO-LINER DEACCLIVATES FOR LANDING ON THE SPACE RAMP.

MARTO ALIGHTS AND HAILS THE ASSEMBLED SCIENTISTS AND DIGNITARIES

GREETINGS! GENTLEMEN, I THINK THAT I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU ABOUT THE BLINDING DEATH! IF YOU WILL BE SO KIND AS TO BOARD MY HUMBLE CRAFT...

I'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE OUTER AMBIENCE BUT FIRST I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE ALL HEAVY METAL OBJECTS AT THE DOOR. YOU SEE, MY DIRECTIONAL GRAVITY COMPASS IS EASILY UPSET BY METAL. I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND...

OF COURSE, MARTO!

GALE RUSHES UP TO THE VISITING DIGNITARY...

SUCH A HANDSOME MAN AS YOURSELF NEEDS A FLOWER! BUT, THE OTHERS... I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT THEY HAVE FLOWERS ALSO.

GO AHEAD, MY DEAR. THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM ON MY SHIP FOR A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!

THE LAST TO BOARD THE SPACE-LINER, MARTO PASSES A JUGGLER.

HA! HA! VERY AMUSING! COME ALONG, MY GOOD MAN. PERHAPS YOU CAN ENTERTAIN MY GUESTS. LATER, THEY WILL NEED AMUSING!

ROTOR WIDE OPEN, THE GREAT SHIP HURTLES SPACEWARD...

INSIDE, THE GUESTS CLIMB THE NARROW CATWALKS LEADING TO THE MAIN CHAMBER...

AND BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED AUDIENCE...

GENTLEMEN, YOU ARE CURIOUS AS TO WHO, OR WHAT, CAUSES THE BLIND DEATH. I WILL TELL YOU SIRS, NOW! I AM THE ONE WHO CAUSED IT!

IS HE CRAZY?

MARTO!

HOLD THEM, GUARDS! WE HAVE THEIR GUNS BY A VERY NEAT TRICK... HA! AND NOW I'LL PROJECT THE GERM FOUND IN THE BODY OF A BLINDING DEATH VICTIM! LOOK!

GET BACK, OR THIS RAY GUN WILL

AND IN THIS PROJECTED PICTURE YOU SEE THE CONTENTS OF THE MACHINE ABOVE ME! DO YOU NOTICE THE SIMILARITY OF THE GERMS?

MARTO HANDLES THE LONG TUBE FROM THE WEIRD MACHINE ABOVE HIS HEAD.

IF THERE IS STILL ANY DOUBT IN YOUR MINDS, I WILL GIVE YOU A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION! GUARDS! BRING ME A PRISONER!

COME, COME, DO NOT STRUGGLE SO. A FEW WHIFFS OF THE BLINDING DEATH GERMS, THEN..

STOP! PLEASE DON'T.

BUT SUDDENLY

EVEN I CANNOT STAND THIS!

GALE AND THE JUGGLER WHIP OUT CONCEALED RAY GUNS!

THEY STRUGGLE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS..

TASTES SO GOOD I'LL TAKE ANOTHER BITE!

BUT SUPERIOR NUMBERS QUICKLY OVERPOWER THEM.

FOOLS! I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU LATER! GUARD, THROW THEM INTO THE COSMO-RAY PRISON I HAVE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS THESE SCIENTISTS MUST SIGN. AND IF THEY SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN NEAR THE RAMP TODAY. I AM SURE THEY WILL DO AS I ASK

WELL, GALE, OUR LITTLE FIGHT WASN'T SO SUCCESSFUL. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

GALE? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHOEVER YOU ARE, THOUGH THANKS FOR THE HELP! BUT WHO ARE YOU?

FOR AN ANSWER, THE BEGGAR TAKES OUT A RING!

SARACEN! THAT RING IN YOUR EAR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS SPACE SHIP?

YOU KNOW ME, GALE. I'M WHEREVER THE MONEY JINGLES! BESIDES, A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOURSELF!

WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING QUICKLY! NO TELLING WHAT THAT MADMAN MARTO IS UP TO!

I'LL TRY MY BELT. THE METAL MAY SHORT-CIRCUIT THE COSMO-RAYS!

GALE HURLS THE BELT IN THE PATH OF THE BRILLIANT RAYS. SUDDENLY..

THERE! THAT DID IT. LET'S GO!

FASTER, GALE! OH, OW .. TWO GUARDS ARE AFTER US. DUCK BEHIND THAT BEND AND I'LL GIVE THEM A TASTE OF SARACEN MAGIC!

SARACEN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE OTHER ONE!

DON'T BOTHER! ONE DOWN AND ONE TO GO!

I'VE GOT HIM, GALE! HE'S THAT LAST ONE IN MY WAY AND HE WON'T STOP ME! NOW TO FIND THAT ARSENAL!

OW..W!

LUCKY WE FOUND THIS PLACE SO QUICKLY! NOW IF WE CAN ONLY GET THESE RAY GUNS TO THE SCIENTISTS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THEY BURST INTO THE MAIN HALL

HERE YOU ARE, BOYS! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THESE PLAYTHINGS!

THAT'S ALL FOR YOU, MARTO! GET AWAY FROM THAT TUBE!

CAUGHT COMPLETELY UNAWARE BY THE SURPRISE ATTACK OF GALE AND SARACEN, MARTO AND HIS MEN ARE NO MATCH FOR THE ENRAGED SCIENTISTS...

BUT AS SARACEN STARTS TO LEAVE ..

STOP! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

WHY, JUST LOOK AT MY SKULL CAP. I'M NOTHING BUT A HARMLESS OLD BEGGAR! AND IF GALE ALLEN IS THROUGH WITH ME I THOUGHT I'D REPORT TO CAPTAIN SARACEN THAT MARTO'S WEALTH IS A MYTH!

SO LONG, BEGGAR! I'VE LOST YOU THIS TIME! OR HAVE I...?

GALE ALLEN MEETS CAPTAIN SARACEN IN A SURPRISING ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

NORGE BENSON

by OLAF BJORN

NORGE, JOLIE, FROSTING AND HATRACK RELAX ON A PICNIC IN THE PEACEFUL ELYSIAN MEADOWS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PLUTO...
UMM.. LUNCH WAS GOOD!
WELL, YOU AND HATRACK CAN PARK YOUR LAZY BONES AND SNOOZE. WE'RE GOIN' EXPLORIN'... WORK OFF THAT MEAL!
SOON THEY SPOT A CAVE..
WANTA TAKE A PEEK IN, FROSTING?
GETTIN' DIPLOMATIC ALLUVA SUDDEN, AINT CHA.. YOU KNOW I'M TOO FAT TO GET IN!
GRUNT!.. I'LL WAIT HERE!

So NORGE ENTERS THE CAVE ALONE.. SUDDENLY HE REACHES A HUGE UNDER-GROUND ROOM WHERE GLITTERING STALAGMITES AND STALACTITES HOLD HIM SPELLBOUND BY THEIR BEAUTY...

NORGE STRUGGLES IN VAIN AS HE WHIRLS DEEPER AND DEEPER THROUGH THE PASSAGE...

HUH?

AND THEN A MYSTERIOUS SUCTION FORCE DRAWS HIM HEADLONG INTO A SIDE WALL TUNNEL!!

HUH? WHY,..THIS IS A LABORATORY ALL FULL OF BEAKERS AND TUBES, AN' SCALES 'N THINGS!..

..SOMEBODY'S COMING!

STILL GASPING FOR BREATH HE FINDS HIMSELF DUMPED UNCEREMONIOUSLY ON THE FLOOR OF ANOTHER ROOM...

OOF!

WH..WHO ARE YOU??

A LONG LEAN MAN GAZES AT NORGE WITH NO MORE PERSONAL INTEREST THAN IF HE WERE A GUINEA PIG...

I AM LOMAR, THE SCIENTIST-MAGICIAN WHO FLED FROM PLUTO BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN!

OMIGOSH! L.LOMAR.. I'VE HEARD OF HIM... BATS IN THE BELFRY. HES CRAZY AS A LOON!!

MEANWHILE, FROSTING GETS IMPATIENT WAITING...

GONNA DIG MY WAY IN AN' SEE WHAT'S COOKIN'.

ENLARGING THE CAVE MOUTH THE BEAR VENTURES INSIDE... STRAIGHT FOR THE SUCTION TUNNEL!!

GLOOP?

HEY!! NOW I'M STUCK IN HERE!

All THIS TIME NORGE TRIES TO DODGE LOMAR.. BUT EACH TIME HE GETS TO A DOOR POWERFUL MAGNETIC BEAMS DRAW HIM BACK..

OMIGOSH! WHAT A PICKLE! WHAT A MESS!

SURE OF HIS PREY, LOMAR WAXES TALKATIVE AND CONFIDING...

AFTER ALL, WHO IN PLUTO HAD THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ME INSANE? IT'S ALL IN ONE'S POINT OF VIEW..

Y. YOU MEAN, L. LET'S BE FRIENDS?

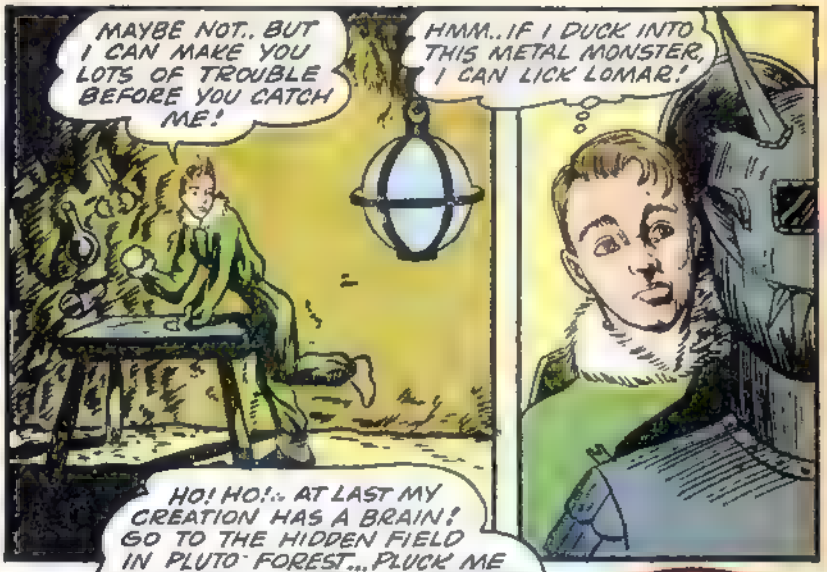
SURE! I'VE LONGED FOR HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP. ALL THE COMPANY I HAVE IS THIS METAL MONSTER. HE WALKS, AND TALKS. BUT HE CAN'T THINK! THAT'S WHAT I MISS..

NOT THINK? WHY NOT, IF HE DOES EVERYTHING ELSE?

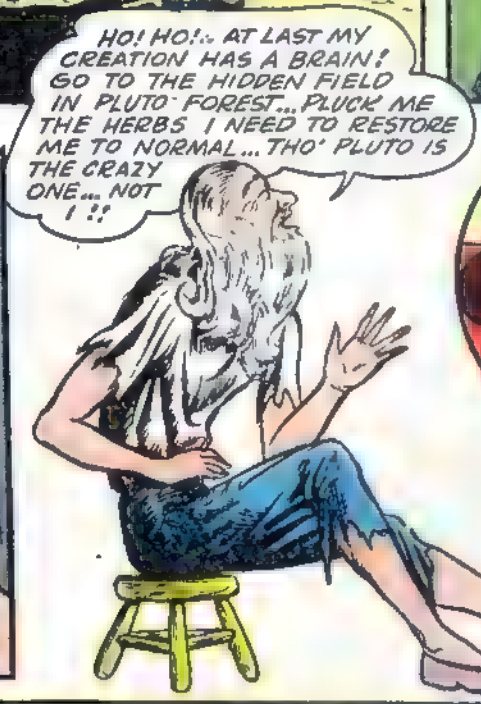
BECAUSE HE HAS NO BRAIN! THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL SUPPLY!!

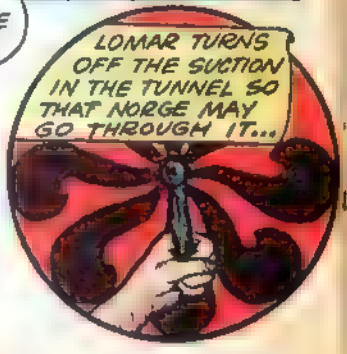
YIPE! HEY!

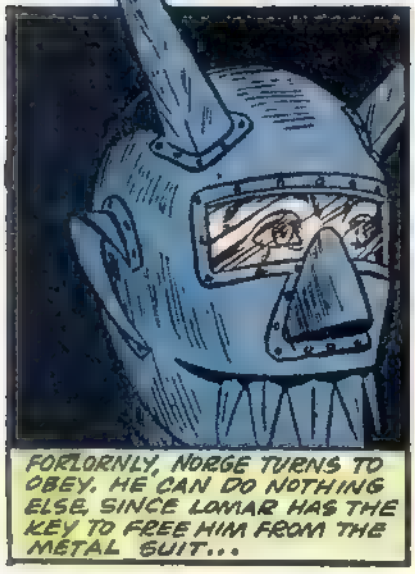
OH, NO, YOU DON'T! NOT IF I THINK WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! YOU'RE NOT STUFFING YOUR ROBOT WITH ME!
STOP, FOOL YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM LOMAR!!

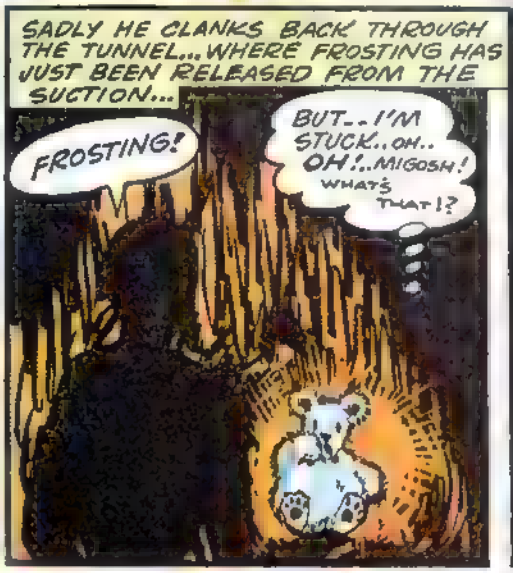

MAYBE NOT.. BUT I CAN MAKE YOU LOTS OF TROUBLE BEFORE YOU CATCH ME!
HMM.. IF I DUCK INTO THIS METAL MONSTER, I CAN LICK LOMAR!

HA! GOOD! GOOD! JUST WHAT I WANTED YOU TO DO!
I LOCK YOU IN... SO!


HO! HO!.. AT LAST MY CREATION HAS A BRAIN! GO TO THE HIDDEN FIELD IN PLUTO FOREST... PLUCK ME THE HERBS I NEED TO RESTORE ME TO NORMAL... THO' PLUTO IS THE CRAZY ONE... NOT I !!


LOMAR TURNS OFF THE SUCTION IN THE TUNNEL SO THAT NORGE MAY GO THROUGH IT...


FORLORNLY, NORGE TURNS TO OBEY. HE CAN DO NOTHING ELSE, SINCE LOMAR HAS THE KEY TO FREE HIM FROM THE METAL SUIT...


SADLY HE CLANKS BACK THROUGH THE TUNNEL... WHERE FROSTING HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED FROM THE SUCTION...
FROSTING!
BUT.. I'M STUCK.. OH.. OH!.. MIGOSH! WHAT'S THAT!?

IT.. IT TALKS! OMI.. OMI.. SAY.. I'M SO SCARED, I SHRANK! SO I'M FREE!

WELL? SHALL WE OR SHALL WE NOT ENTER THAT CAVE?
OUT ROLLS FROSTING..
FROSTING! WHAT HAPPENED TO NORGE?
FROSTING'S FUR IS ON END_ HIS EYES NEARLY POP OUT...
WHY_ THE POOR THING IS FRIGHTENED TO DEATH! NOW I AM WORRIED ABOUT NORGE!
GLUK_ MUGL.. BOP!
POOR NORGE! EVEN HIS BEST FRIENDS FAIL TO RECOGNIZE HIM UNDER THE ARMOR...
SNIFF! SNIFF!
SUDDENLY, THE WEIRDEST FIGURE IMAGINABLE CLANKS OUT OF THE CAVE...
OOH! RUN! RUN!
EVEN 'LIL RABBITS ARE SCARED O' ME!
WELL_ HERE'S THE SECRET MEADOW WITH THE MONSTER LIZARDS GUARDING IT!
THE MONSTROUS ONES GNASH THEIR TEETH IN HAPPY PROSPECT OF A GOOD MEAL... BUT THEIR SHARP FANGS CANNOT EVEN DENT NORGE'S STRONG ARMOR!!

SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOMING THE GIANT LIZARDS, NORGE RACES TO THE HERB FOREST...
THIS SHOULD BE PLENTY...
AND STILL SAD IN HIS METAL PRISON, HE CLANKS BACK TOWARD LOMAR'S CAVE...
IF HE SHOULD DIE BEFORE I RETURN, I AM A METAL ROBOT FOREVER!
OLD LOMAR SEEMS DEAD WHEN NORGE REACHES HIM!
LOMAR! YOU CAN'T DIE!! LOMAR!
Y-YES, MY SON— I CAN'T DIE.. THE HERBS REVIVE ME.. I REMEMBER NOW— I MUST GO BACK TO PLUTO!
MIRACULOUSLY BROUGHT BACK TO NORMAL BY THE HERBS, LOMAR RELEASES NORGE FROM THE ARMOR...
WE'LL BOTH GO BACK! WE'LL MAKE THEM BELIEVE WHAT A GREAT SCIENTIST YOU ARE!
BUT JOLIE, FROSTING AND HATRACK HAVE REACHED PLUTO FIRST...
HE'S TRAPPED! THERE'S A BIG MONSTER!!
COME NOW! IT CAN'T BE AS BAD AS THAT!
JUST THEN, IN WALK NORGE AND LOMAR...
THAT'S THE M-MONSTER!
HI, FOLKS! THIS IS ME! NOW I'M WEARING THIS ARMOR FOR FUN
OOOH— THIS IS TOO MUCH!! I'M GONNA F-F-FAINT!!
NEXT TIME NORGE SPOTS SABOTAGE IN THE INTERPLANET OLYMPIC GAMES!!
PLANET COMICS!

Flint BAKER
by HUXLEY HALDANE
FLINT BAKER, ACE PLANET SCOUT, CROSSES THE PATH OF AN OLD ENEMY AND FINDS HIMSELF PITTED AGAINST A CRAZED BRAIN THAT THREATENS TO WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WITH A GHASTLY CREATION!
ROGUE STAR, THE SPACE SHIP OF FLINT BAKER, HURTLES THROUGH SPACE...
THE THERMO-ROTORS ARE WIDE OPEN, MIMI. WE SHOULD BE AT AXUHR IN TEN MINUTES!
ONLY HOPE WE GET THERE IN TIME. THAT RADIO SIGNAL WE GOT FROM THEM WAS FRIGHTENING IN ITS URGENCY!
MEANWHILE ON AXUHR...THE POPULACE CRINGES AT AN UNKNOWN DANGER, STARK, MADDENING FEAR ETCHING THEIR FACES!
WHAT CAN WE DO?
NOTHING! SOON THE DISAPPEARING DEATH...
SUDDENLY...A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT, AND THEN...THEN A GIGANTIC CRATER OF NOTHING!..

NOT LONG AFTER...

LOOK, MIMI! THAT'S WHERE THE CITY USED TO STAND! COME ON, WE'LL LAND AND LOOK INTO THIS!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS. ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO THERE WAS A CITY, TEEMING WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE! AND NOW THERE'S NOTHING! PEOPLE, HOUSES, STREETS.. EVERYTHING GONE WITHOUT A SINGLE TRACE! IT'S DOWNRIGHT UNCANNY!

LATER ON EARTH...

SO THAT'S THE STORY OF AXUHR COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED OFF THE FACE OF THE UNIVERSE. AND YOU SAY OTHER SPHERES HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME THING?

YES, QUITE A FEW OF THE LARGER PLANETS HAVE LOST SOME OF THEIR MAJOR CITIES IN THE SAME MANNER! IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE SOON!..

SUDDENLY AN IMAGE.. A CRUEL RUTHLESS FACE APPEARS ON THE WALL...

THE DISAPPEARING DEATH WILL NEXT STRIKE BAXRO!.. YOU ARE POWERLESS TO STOP IT... EARTH FOOLS!

AND JUST AS SUDDENLY, THE FACE FADES...

COMMISSIONER, IF YOU WILL, GRANT US PERMISSION, WE'D LIKE TO TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY. MAYBE WE CAN BE IN TIME TO STOP THIS SCOURGE!

YES!

BUT WHEN THEY SOAR OVER BAXRO...

WE'RE TOO LATE, FLINT! THE THING HAS ALREADY STRUCK!

...THE SAME VOID OF NOTHING MEETS THEIR STARTLED EYES!

NO LUCK, COMMISSIONER, AND NO CLUES EITHER! WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? YOU'RE HOLDING A MEETING IN THE CONCERT HALL? FINE! THEN WE'LL MEET YOU THERE, SIR.

IF WE POOL ALL OUR IDEAS WE MIGHT GET SOMEWHERE!

BUT, MAN, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! CAN'T YOU REALIZE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE UNIVERSE IF THIS KEEPS UP?

LATER..

WE'VE HEARD FROM ALL THE PLANET MEMBERS AND NONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO OFFER ANY CONCRETE SUGGESTION! AND UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHO THE FACE IS, WE'RE LICKED!

SUDDENLY..

STOP, FOOLS! I, ZANOR, WILL TELL YOU OF THE DISAPPEARING DEATH! I CAUSED IT BY RELEASING UNINHABITED PLANETS FROM THEIR GRAVITATIONAL FORCE, SENDING THEM RACING TO THEIR MOTHER PLANETOIDS!

I CALL THEM CONTRACTERENE BOMBS AND THEY WILL DESTROY EVERY TRACE OF ANYTHING. TO SAVE YOURSELVES, TELL FLINT BAKER TO TAKE OFF IN HIS SPACE SHIP. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST WHEN HE GETS HERE, I'LL GIVE HIM A LIST OF MY DEMANDS! UNLESS YOU DO AS I SAY... DEATH!

FOLLOWING ZANOR'S DIRECTIONS, THE ROGUE STAR HEADS SPACEWARD...

WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, FLINT?

THAT FACE! I KNOW I'VE SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE, BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T PLACE IT!

NOT LONG AFTER..

FLINT, OUR ROTORS HAVE STOPPED!

YES, AND WE'RE BEING PULLED ALONG BY A POWERFUL MAGNETIC FORCE!

THE CONTROLS WON'T WORK! IF WE DON'T SLOW DOWN WE'LL CRASH ON ZANOR'S HIDDEN PLANET!

BUT THE PACE SLACKENS..

WHEW! FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT WE WERE GONERS!

AND THE SHIP FLOATS TO A GENTLE LANDING!

AS THEY STEP OUT...

WATCH IT, MIM! GRAB YOUR GUN!

FLINT, THESE CREATURES ARE NOTHING BUT HEADS WITH ONE EYE. UGH!

BUT BEFORE THEY CAN GET THEIR RAY GUNS INTO ACTION..

MIMI! THESE EYES, THEY'RE FROM ...

MARS! BUT THAT MEANS SARKO!

THE POWERFUL TAILS OF THE EYEMEN QUICKLY OVERPOWER THEM!

LATER...

YES, I'M YOUR OLD FRIEND SARKO! YEARS AGO YOU DEFEATED ME AND MY EYEMEN ON MARS, LEAVING ME FOR DEAD.. BUT I WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND ESCAPED!

NOW I CALL MYSELF ZANOR, AND I WILL RULE THE UNIVERSE! NOTHING.. DO YOU HEAR?..NOTHING CAN STOP ME! AND I'VE LURED YOU BOTH HERE TO REPAY YOU BOTH FOR DEFEATING MY PLANS ON MARS. ONLY YOU WILL BE REPAID BY MY NEW DISINTEGRATOR MACHINE... A MACHINE THAT DISINTEGRATES HUMAN FLESH!

AND **THIS** IS BRANDION, THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE GRAVITY MACHINE. HE IS AN EARTH SCIENTIST. THERE THEY LAUGHED AT HIS THEORIES... BUT **NOT** I.. I'M REAPING THE PROFIT FROM HIS EXPERIMENT!

BRANDION, SHOW OUR VISITORS THE MACHINES. THEY MIGHT LIKE TO SEE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR GENIUS!

THE AGED SCIENTIST LEADS THEM TO THE LABORATORY..

I CAN TURN THE DIALS AND DESTROY ANY PLANET. THIS MACHINE NULLIFIES THE EFFECT OF GRAVITATIONAL FORCE BY ELECTRO-COSMO-TON RADIATIONS!

VERY INTERESTING! BUT IT CAN'T BE THAT GOOD!

GOOD? WHY I COULD EVEN DESTROY THE VERY PLANET WE ARE ON NOW!

GUARDS, THROW THEM INTO JAIL!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

FLINT, THE CRACKPOTS REALLY GOT SOMETHING IN THAT MACHINE! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

SEARCH ME! WE WON'T DO MUCH WITH THAT MONKEY WATCHING US!

SUDDENLY...

IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE THE TORTURE OF THE EARTH PEOPLE TOMORROW!

A DARK FIGURE STANDS POISED BEHIND THE GUARD.

AND...

OW!

SOMEONE'S CONKED HIM, MIMI... I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHO IT IS FROM HERE!

IT'S BRANDION, THE SCIENTIST!

SHH.. QUIET! THERE IS NO TIME TO BE LOST!

I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO FREE MYSELF FROM ZARKO'S DOMINATION, AND YOU LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF MAN THAT MIGHT TURN THE TRICK! I COULDN'T MENTION THIS IN THE LABORATORY TODAY. I FEARED THE GUARDS MIGHT OVERHEAR!

WE MUST GET TO YOUR SPACE SHIP IMMEDIATELY. THERE'S NOT A MINUTE TO WASTE ...!..

QUIET! I THOUGHT I HEARD FOOTSTEPS!

IF THE SPACE SHIP IS STILL THERE..

SUDDENLY...

THE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED! GRAB THEM!

NOT WHILE I'M STILL AROUND!.. BACK, BRANDON, I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY MAKE ANY NOISE!

FLINT LEAPS...

OW!! WHAT FLYING THING ATTACKS US!?

...AND MAKES A PERFECT TWO-POINT LANDING...

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE, ESPECIALLY CRACKED TOGETHER LIKE THIS!

BUT...

WHAT'S THE COMMOTION IN THE HALL? IF THOSE EARTH PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO ESCAPE

ZANOR SWINGS OPEN THE DOOR AND...

OH! OH! NOW WE'VE DONE IT!

FLINT BAKER, AND MIMI, WITH BRANDION. HE MUST HAVE FREED THEM! QUICK, EYES...GET THEM!

HEAD FOR THE SHIP, OUR RAY GUNS WILL HOLD THEM OFF A SECOND!

BULL'S-EYE! AND I DO MEAN EYE!

WITH A BURST OF SPEED...

START THE ROTORS, MIMI, I'LL STAY IN THE REAR, JUST IN CASE...

THEY MAKE THE SHELTER OF THE GIANT SPACE CAR!

THE ROGUE STAR SOARS OFF INTO SPACE...

SAFE!

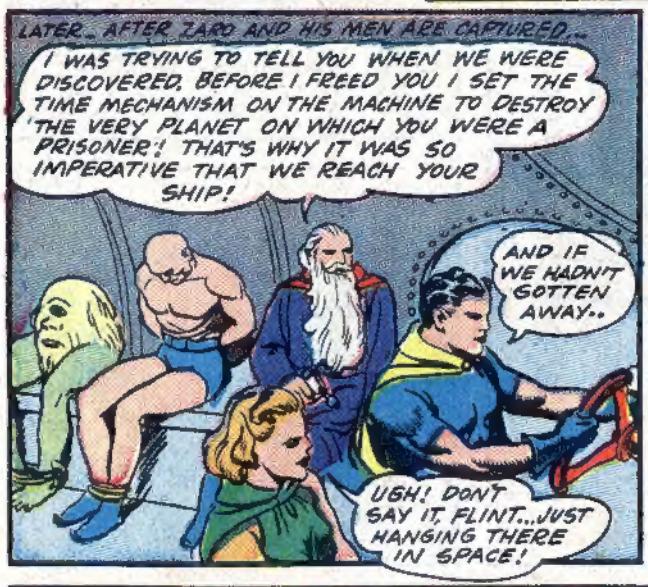
BUT...

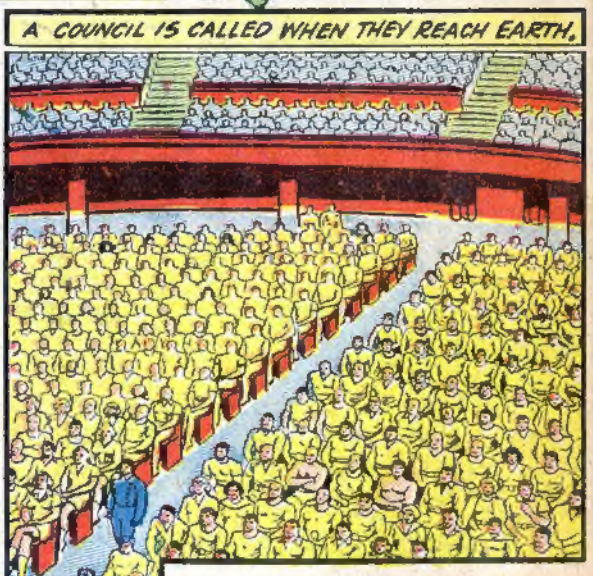
THE EARTH FOOLS THINK THEY HAVE OUTWITTED ME AND ESCAPED. BUT THIS MACHINE WILL FORCE THEM BACK TO THIS PLANET

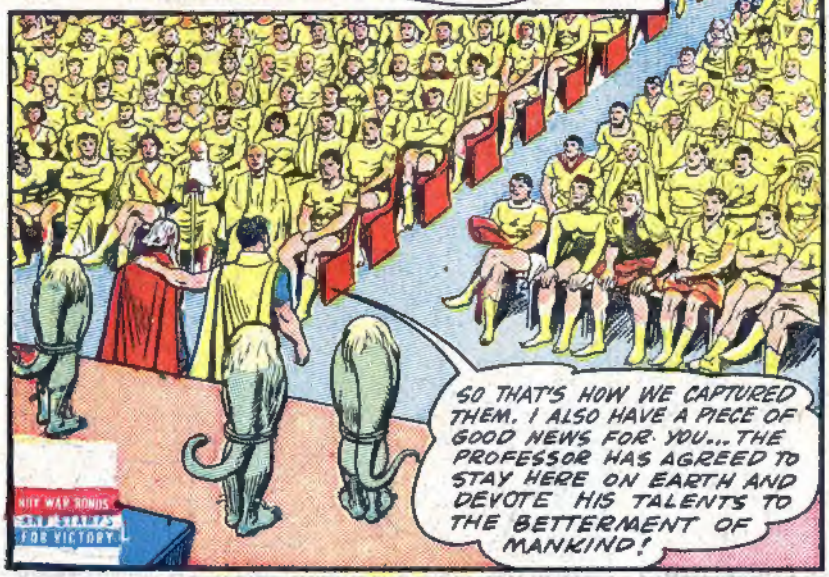
SUDDENLY...

WE'RE IN THE SOUP, MIMI! THE ROTORS HAVE STOPPED AND THE SHIP'S OUT OF CONTROL!

AND WE'RE HEADING RIGHT BACK TO HIS PLANET!


LATER.. AFTER ZARKO AND HIS MEN ARE CAPTURED...
I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU WHEN WE WERE DISCOVERED. BEFORE I FREED YOU I SET THE TIME MECHANISM ON THE MACHINE TO DESTROY THE VERY PLANET ON WHICH YOU WERE A PRISONER! THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO IMPERATIVE THAT WE REACH YOUR SHIP!
AND IF WE HADN'T GOTTEN AWAY..
UGH! DON'T SAY IT, FLINT...JUST HANGING THERE IN SPACE!




SO THAT'S HOW WE CAPTURED THEM. I ALSO HAVE A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS FOR YOU... THE PROFESSOR HAS AGREED TO STAY HERE ON EARTH AND DEVOTE HIS TALENTS TO THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND!
BUY WAR BONDS
FOR VICTORY

BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE PLANET WE WERE ON. DID IT DESTROY ANY CITY?
HAVE NO FEAR, MY BOY.. IT FELL ON THE WASTELANDS OF WHAT WAS ONCE BERLIN, GERMANY!
FLINT BAKER TACKLES WEIRD DENIZENS OF ANOTHER WORLD IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF...
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